

**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



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY      YEAR C      28 APRIL 2019

## FIRST READING

Acts 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

## RESPONSE Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

## SECOND READING

Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One, I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

## GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among

them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia!  
**You believe me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe. Alleluia!**

## COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

My dear people, you, like myself, are well aware that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the one physician capable of bringing us eternal healing and salvation. We know, too, that it was in order to accomplish this that he took upon himself the weakness of our human nature, otherwise that weakness would have remained with us for ever. He equipped himself with a human body liable to death, so that in and through that body he might conquer death itself. And though, as the apostle tells

us, it was his human weakness that made it possible for him to be crucified, it was his divine power that enabled him to return to life. The same apostle says: "He will never die again, neither will death have any further hold upon him." All this you already know and believe, and also the consequences flowing from it; we can be sure that the miracles he wrought while he lived among us were meant to encourage us to accept gifts from him that should never pass away nor have an end. Thus he gave back sight to blind eyes that would shortly be closed again in death; he raised Lazarus from the dead only for him to die again. His bodily cures, indeed, were never meant to last for ever, even though at the end of time he is to give the body itself life everlasting. But because "seeing is believing," he used those visible wonders to build up people's faith in even greater marvels that could not be seen. Let no one then be found to say that since Christ Jesus our Lord no longer works such miracles among us, the Church was better off in its early days. On the contrary, in one recorded testament, the same Lord sets those who have never seen and yet believe before those who believe only because they see. Indeed, so great was the disciples' weakness at that time, that when they saw the Lord they found it necessary to touch him before they could believe he had really risen from the dead. They were unable to believe the testimony of their own eyes, until they had handled his body and explored his recent wounds with their fingers. Only after this was done could that most hesitant of all his disciples exclaim: "My Lord and my God!" Thus it was by his wounds that Christ, who had so often healed the manifold wounds of others, came to be recognized himself. Now we may ask: could not the Lord have risen with a body from which all marks of wounds had been erased? No doubt he could have; but he knew his disciples bore within their hearts a wound so deep that the only way to cure it was to retain the scars of his own wounds in his body. And when that confession: "My Lord and my God!" was uttered, what was his answer to it? "You believe," he said, "because you have seen me; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." And who, my brothers and sisters, are those if not ourselves and those who are to follow after us? When, later on, the Lord had departed from human sight and faith had had time to strike roots into people's hearts, those who believed in him made their act of faith without seeing him in whom they made it. The faith of such believers is highly meritorious, for it springs from a devoted heart rather than from an exploring hand. *Sermon 88, 1-2.*

**COMMUNION** Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** Today 28 April, 11.00am.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Today 28 April, 2:30-4:30pm at St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church Leura, with readings, singing, the chaplet, confession and benediction, followed by Mass at 5pm.

**WORKSHOP FOR READERS WITH SR. MARY-LOUISE:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1pm in the Katoomba Hall and Church. This workshop is mandatory for all our readers, both old and new ones. Should you be unable to attend please contact Fr. Carlos or Fr. Sean.

**RIP:** A funeral service for the late John Graham Hands, father of Jacquie Harsh, will be held at St Canice's Church Wednesday 1 May at 1pm. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY:** This Friday, adoration after the 12pm Mass until 6pm. This Saturday, blessing of the sick at the 9:30am Mass.

**PROMOTION OF MARY MACKILLOP IN OUR PARISH:** Morning and evening meeting on Tuesday 21st of May for anyone interested in promoting devotion to the patroness of our Parish. Times for meetings still will be provided at a later date.

**NEW PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE:** to be regularly updated. [www.facebook.com/Blue-Mountains-Catholic-567984977037106](http://www.facebook.com/Blue-Mountains-Catholic-567984977037106)

**DAILY ADORATION:** During Lent we have had a daily hour of Eucharistic Adoration. From now on and until further notice we will continue to have one hour of Adoration on Mondays after the 8.30am Mass, and on Fridays half an hour after the 12.00pm Mass. **THE 8:30AM MASS:** will continue Monday through Thursday after Lent.

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

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Could you kindly return your Project Compassion boxes as soon as possible. You may return them to the sacristy after Mass or drop them into the presbytery during office hours. We thank you for your support.

**RENAISSANCE OF MARRIAGE CONFERENCE—building a Catholic Marriage Culture:** Australia's annual gathering of Catholic leadership working directly and indirectly in the areas of marriage and relationship formation. The conference offers a unique opportunity to hear about some of the most effective and ground-breaking initiatives relevant to parishes on Catholic Marriage, and to connect and network with other leaders across the country. For more information, including registration information, can be found at [www.rom.org.au](http://www.rom.org.au) or via email [rom@marriagerc.org](mailto:rom@marriagerc.org)

**Leura Harvest Festival Sunday 5 May 2019:** Groom your chook, grease the cake tin, juggle the jam jars, and gather your recycled materials to create a scarecrow for this year's Leura Harvest Festival on Sunday 5 May 2019. We need your entries in all competitions! For further details visit [www.leuravillage.com.au/Fairs](http://www.leuravillage.com.au/Fairs) or email [bookings@leuravillage.com.au](mailto:bookings@leuravillage.com.au). Our facebook page is @LeuraHarvestFestival.

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Come to Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. Come to Eucharistic Adoration.

**"Blessed are they who do not see and yet believe. (John 20:29)."**

## 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.

**DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** ANTHONY WALL, ANN RYAN, JOHN GRAHAM HANDS, VICKIE BASS, KATHY GRANT, ANTHONY WALL, LORRAINE BOWERMAN, SUSIE BLANK, CARMEL MAISY MAHONY BROWN, 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 Kee- gel, 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 Heiningar.

**Weddings:** Please call Parish Office for details. (Baptisms: upon request)  
**Parish Website at:** [www.marymackillopupperbluemountains.org.au](http://www.marymackillopupperbluemountains.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook at:** [www.facebook.com/Blue-Mountains-Catholic-567984977037106](http://www.facebook.com/Blue-Mountains-Catholic-567984977037106)  
**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 May 5 (3rd Sunday of Easter)

LEURA 5pm	Reader  Server Sacristan	Russel and Sharron  Zelko Livaic Pam + Natale
WENTWORTH FALLS 8am	Reader  Server Sacristans	Regina and Margaret  Sylvester Simon Bev and Halina
KATOOMBA 10am	Reader  Server Sacristans	Jenny Porter and Linda Muller  Zelko Livaic Annette, Matthew, Natale.
LEURA 5pm	Reader  Server Sacristan	Margaret  Michael Wood Pam LeBreton
Counters	Counter Counter Counter Counter Counter	Andrew Giesajtis Barry Porter Patrick Everingham Mark Griffin
Cleaners (from May 2)	Kat Church & Hall	Harsh and Griffin Families.

## 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