

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 EASTER YEAR C 12 MAY 2019

FIRST READING

Acts 13:14,43-52

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the Sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.' It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 10:37-30

Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

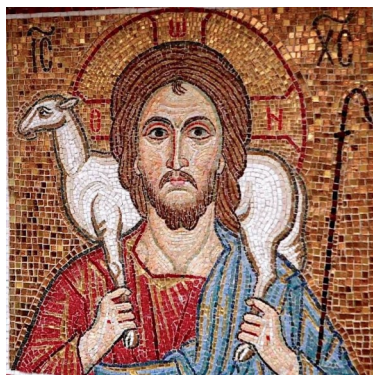
COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

Cyril of Alexandria (d.444)

The mark of Christ's sheep is their willingness to hear and obey, just as the sign of those who are not his is their disobedience. We take the word "hear" to imply obedience to what has been said. People who hear God are known by him. No one is entirely unknown by God, but to be known in this way is to become his kin. Thus, when Christ says, "I know mine," he means, "I will receive them, and give them permanent mysti-

cal kinship with myself." It might be said that inasmuch as he has become man, he has made all human beings his kin, since all are members of the same race; we are all united to Christ in a mystical relationship because of his incarnation. Yet those who do not preserve the likeness of his holiness are alienated from him. "My sheep follow me," says Christ. By a certain God-given grace, believers follow in the footsteps of Christ. No longer subject to the shadows of the law, they obey the commands of Christ, and guided by his words rise through grace to his own dignity, for they are called children of God. When Christ ascends into heaven, they also follow him. Christ promises his followers as a recompense and reward eternal life, exemption from death and corruption, and from the torments the judge inflicts upon transgressors. By giving life Christ shows that by nature he is life. He does not receive it from another, but supplies it from his own resources. And by eternal life we understand not only length of days which all, both good and bad, shall possess after the resurrection, but also the passing of those days in peace and joy. We may also see in the word "life" a reference to the Eucharist, by means of which Christ implants in believers his own life through their sharing in his flesh, according to the text: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."

On John's Gospel 7.



COMMUNION The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for us. Alleluia.

RESPONSE We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING

Apocalypse 7:9,14-17

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in

USUAL EVENTS:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Friday after the 12 noon Katoomba Mass.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday 19 May.

FIRST COMMUNION 2019: Classes begin next Sunday 12 May 8:30-9:30am in St Canice's Parish Hall for six weeks. If your child/children have made their First Confession and would like to enrol please bring them along to this first session. Further enquires please ring parish office 4782 2804. First Communion will be the Feast of Corpus Christi Sunday 23 June at the 10am Mass.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION APPEAL: To be held 1-2 June to raise funds for the Holy Spirit Seminary. Our quota from the diocese for this appeal is \$4,019.

60th BIRTHDAY OF FR. CARLOS: Celebratory lunch after 10am Katoomba Mass June 2. Hope you can join us. Please see sacristan to sign birthday card.

Congratulations to Iris Johansson-Robertson, daughter of Andrew and Christey, who was baptised in St Canice's church last Sunday. We welcome her as a child of God.

THANK YOU to all who have submitted suggestions on how we can deepen our devotion to St Mary of the Cross in our Parish. **Suggestion Boxes** will be available until after the last Parish Mass on Sunday 19th May. If you wish to attend one of the gatherings on 21st May please complete the form available beside the suggestion box. The suggestion boxes will be emptied regularly and suggestions noted.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal Thank You: Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and the Ephpheta Centre thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support. Throughout the diocese the appeal raised over \$268,000 and our Parish contributed over \$2,000. Please pray for the diocesan ministries supported by the Parramatta Catholic Foundation, including the Ephpheta Centre for the deaf and hard of hearing. May they continue to bring comfort and care to our brothers and sisters who rely upon their support.

NEW PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE: to be regularly updated. www.facebook.com/BlueMountains-Catholic-567984977037106

MARIAN PRAYER MEETING: 25 Ada St. Katoomba. Thursday nights 7:30pm. All welcome. Ph: 4784 1089.

KNITTING GROUP: Mondays 10am - Midday. Morning tea provided. Open to anyone interested in knitting. All welcome: amateurs to advanced. Wool donations gratefully accepted. Address: 6 Bodington Drive, Wentworth Falls.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: The Katoomba conference will be conducting its Winter appeal at each Parish church after masses on the weekend of 16-17 June. Vinnies thank you for your generous support of its annual appeal. All funds raised are directed to the needs of the disadvantaged members of our mountain community. In the lead up to the winter appeal, we are seeking your additional support for the donation of non perishable food items to re-stock our food bank supplies. Donation boxes are at the read of our churches. Please assist us if at all possible. Thank you for your continued support of the Society and our Katoomba Conference.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: We have a new batch of envelopes coming soon. Would you kindly consider being part of this regular giving to the Parish if not already.

PARISH SUPPORT EXPO & TRAINING DAY: 5 June St. Joseph's Baulkham Hills. This day will be a day dedicated to training and professional development workshops. The workshops will be in areas of Padre (Parish Database System), Insurance & Risk, Records and Archives, Finance (MYOB), Office 365, Communications and more. It would be great if we could have one or more representatives from each parish. There will be a chance for you to talk to different ministries and agencies of the Diocese who will be represented on the day. For more information & registration: <https://parracatholic.org/parishsupport>

SRI LANKA BOMBINGS MASS: Whilst not all who died were Catholic, the majority were, and in keeping with Catholic tradition particularly in South Asia, the Diocese of Parramatta will offer a Month's Mind Requiem Mass to pray for all who were killed. This Mass will be at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith on Sunday 19 May at 10am. During these sad times when people continue to sin against God's gift of life in such a violent way, let us continue to pray for and support each other. Very Rev Christopher de Souza will offer the Mass.

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: FLORENCE GARDNER, ANTHONY WALL, ANN RYAN, JOHN GRAMHAM 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, Wanda Heffernan, Diane Wood, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, John Egan, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Alex Sarah, Susan Keege, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphet, 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 Heining.

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. (Baptisms: upon request)
Parish Website at: www.marymackillopupperbluemountains.org.au
Parish Facebook at: www.facebook.com/BlueMountains-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 19 (5th Sunday of Easter)

LEURA 5pm	Reader Sharon and Maureen	Server Zelko Livaic	Sacristan Pam + Natale
WENTWORTH FALLS 8am	Reader Maureen and Halina	Server Sylvester Simon	Sacristans Bev and Halina
KATOOMBA 10am	Reader Russel and Maria	Server Michael Wood	Sacristans Annette, Matthew, Natale.
LEURA 5pm	Reader Margaret and Julie	Server Gabe Very	Sacristan Pam LeBreton
Counters	Counter Michael Wood	Counter Natale Assanti	Counter Ben Howard
	Counter Russell Smith	Counter Lawrence O'Dell	Counter
Cleaners (from May 9)	Kat Church & Hall	Annette and Bernard Yen.	

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