

DROUGHT PRAYER: O God, Lord of all creation, by whose power the whole earth came to be, look upon our parched land, we pray, and bestow upon it abundant rain, that pastures, fields and paddocks [and communities too] may by your goodness thrive once more. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. (from the Roman Missal)

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

28 JUNE 2020

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:8-11,13-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. He said to his servant Gehazi, 'Call our Shunamite. Tell her this: "Look, you have gone to all this trouble for us, what can we do for you? Is there anything you would like said for you to the king or to the commander of the army?"' But she replied, 'I live with my own people about me.' 'What can be done for her then?' he asked. Gehazi answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. This time next year,' he said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who call you out of darkness and into his marvelous light. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

RESPONSE For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

Hilary of Poitiers (315-367)

Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. (Mt 10:38)

Christ commanded the apostles to leave everything in the world that they held most dear, adding: "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:38). For those who belong to Christ have crucified their lower nature with its sinful passions and desires. No one is worthy of him who refuses to take up his cross, that is to say, to share the Lord's passion, death, burial, and resurrection, and to follow him by living out the mystery of faith in the newly received grace of the Spirit.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Mt 10:39). This means that thanks to

the power of the word and the renunciation of past sins, temporal gains are death to the soul, and temporal losses salvation.

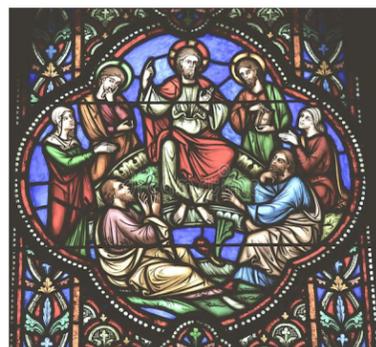
Apostles must therefore take death into their new life and nail their sins to the Lord's cross. They must confront their persecutors with contempt for things present, holding fast to their freedom by a glorious confession of faith, and shunning any gain that would harm their souls. They should know that no power over their souls has been given to anyone, and that by suffering loss in this short life they will achieve immortality.

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me" (Mt 10:40). Christ gives us all a love for his teaching and a disposition to treat our teachers with courtesy.

Earlier he had shown the danger facing those who refused to receive the apostles by requiring these to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against them; now he commends those who do receive the apostles, assuring them of a greater recompense than they might have expected for their hospitality, and he teaches that since he still acts as mediator, when we receive him God enters us through him because he comes from God.

Thus whoever receives the apostles receives Christ, and whoever receives Christ receives God the Father, since what is received in the apostles is nothing else than what is received in Christ; nor is there anything in Christ but what is in God. Through this disposition of graces to receive the apostles is to receive God, because Christ is in them and God is in Christ.

Commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel 10



COMMUNION Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

NEW PRIEST

Fr Bob Anderson has been assigned as parish administrator. This means, he will be taking care of the parish for a few weeks until the permanent parish priest is appointed. He will arrive on Monday 29, and therefore Masses will continue as normal.

THIS SUNDAY 28: is Fr Carlos & Fr Omar's last day here in the parish.

A Farewell for Fr Carlos and Fr Omar will take place at 11.00 am following the 10.00 am Mass at Katoomba in the parish hall. No more than 50 people will be allowed in the hall at any one time and social distancing will be required. Please feel free to take your cup of tea outside the hall to mingle with others should the hall become overcrowded. Please bring a plate to share.

BOOK A MASS

If you wish to come to a weekend Mass, please click on the link below to book a Mass time. You may book one Mass per weekend. Bookings close 3pm this Friday: <https://forms.gle/LDSNjTP69UjtEJYs5>

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES: Please return asap to sacristy after Mass or parish office. Thank you.

BOOKING A SUNDAY MASS: Right now we may celebrate Mass with up to 50 people in attendance, while ensuring that social distancing is maintained. For this reason, the Mass Schedule for the weekend will be kept as usual but to accommodate more people there will be one additional Sunday Mass celebrated at Katoomba at 9am.

Given the spaces, we can fit into our churches these numbers of people: Katoomba: 50 people. Leura: 40 people. Wentworth Falls: 24 people Please note: **You MUST book** to attend a Sunday Mass. You may do so either on the link above (also on our Facebook page) or by emailing or calling the parish office. Bookings open until Friday at 3pm.

We ask parishioners to attend only one weekend Mass (Saturday Vigil or Sunday). Those who have booked a Mass should arrive at least 5-10 minutes early as the doors will be locked at the start of the Mass. There is no more drive through Communion. With the new directives, up to 50 people can attend funerals and baptisms. Up to 20 people can attend weddings.

Weekday Masses are on a first-come-first-serve basis, you do not need to book beforehand. You register as you come in.

ENVELOPES: The envelopes for the weekly contribution are available. Please pick up your pack from the back of the church.

FINANCES: If parishioners would like to contribute to the First Collection for the clergy of the diocese:

BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy

Reference either the Parish Name or the parish code 6038

If you would like to contribute to the Second Collection for the parish:

Bank Transfer: BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Mary MacKillop Parish

Reference: Surname and envelope number or Parish Donation (with or without surname if preferred).

LITURGICAL WORKSHOP: The Office for Worship will be conducting 2 workshops on Liturgical Ministry in October at St Finbar's, Glenbrook. This will include Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Communion to the Sick & Dying. This is for those interested in serving in this ministry, whether new or to refresh and update. Registration forms will be available soon.



SEND YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL TO MASS PRAYER

When you can't make it to Mass and are stuck at home, send your guardian angel to church to intercede for you!

O Holy Angel at my side, go to church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be.

At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne.

At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above.

Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve.

And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His Sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Amen.

ST CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS: The children at St Canice's are very sad to say goodbye to Fr Carlos and Fr Omar. We were very fortunate to see them on Monday so we could wish them the best on their new adventure. The children had made a card and written some lovely messages about Fr Carlos. We gave them both a scarf to remember their Katoomba community. We all wish them well and farewelled them with the Irish Blessing.



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

You need to book Sunday
Leura 5pm (Saturday)
Wentworth Falls 8am
Katoomba 9am
Katoomba 10am
Leura 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MON: 8:30am Katoomba
TUE: 5:15pm Leura
WED: 10am W-Falls
THU: 5:15pm Leura
FRI: 12pm Katoomba
SAT: 9:30am Katoomba

CONFESSION TIMES

MON: 9am Katoomba
TUE: 4:45pm Leura
WED: 9:30am W-Falls
THU: 4:45pm Leura
FRI: 12:30pm Katoomba
SAT: 10am Katoomba

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.

MON: Sts. Peter and Paul, solemnity
TUE: Martyrs of the See of Rome
FRI: St. Thomas Apostle.
SAT: St. Elisabeth of Portugal and the BVM
Next SUN: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Next MON: St. Maria Goretti

DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MOYA THERESE ZARB, HAZEL & BERNARD GLASHEEN, MARION EDWARDS, VALERIE SMALL, SR VIRGINIA WILKINSON, FR PETER MORRISSEY, MARGARET ESGATE, and ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR WHOM YOU REQUESTED PRAYERS AND MASSES AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Marie Thuez, Maria Laznic, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda Heffernan, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphet, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heining, Michelle Scully, Julie Walss.

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 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic

Parish School: St Canice's Primary School, Katoomba **Principal:** Ms. Miriam Meaney