



St Madeleine

Sophie Barat Parish

28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst, NSW 2156

Ph: 96542260, Fax: 96542261, Email: stmads@yahoo.com.au

www.stmadeleine.org.au

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



**33rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

19th November 2017

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

**"Life is like a ten-speed bicycle...
Most of us have gears we never use" -Charles M. Schultz**

One Sunday morning during service, a 2,000-member congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying sub-machine guns. One of the men proclaimed, "Anyone willing to take a bullet for Christ, remain where you are." Immediately, the choir fled, the deacons fled, and most of the congregation fled. Out of the 2,000 there only remained around 20.

The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the preacher and said, "Okay Pastor, I got rid of all the hypocrites. Now you may begin your service. Have a nice day!" And the two men turned and walked out.

(Author Unknown)

True enough that life is full of risks. Risk is defined as "a dark tunnel before you reach the end of it. It's a storm before you can see a rainbow. In other words, it's a path of uncertainties and insecurities before something great happens. Some people trek on that potholed trail while others prefer to stay." Deep reflection would tell us that risk makes us reach places that our mind couldn't have comprehended. Through the gospel of this Sunday, Christ sees Faith as a risk and at the same time a successful investment. As an investor always risks the present for a share in a better, unrealized future, a believer, likewise, exchanges his present security for a share in the divine promises – a share that he now possess only "in hope." As Christ sees it, every human person is called to be a venture capitalist of the spirit.



What are some examples of this kind of investment in Christ's promises? A certain stake will be one that Christians have: for Christ's sake, the Christian shares some of his/her material blessings from his monthly budget for the sake of the poor or for the ministries of the Church. The almsgiver surrenders something he might have enjoyed in the present for an unrealized future.



An even greater stake would be to give up everything that leads to unwanted or unhealthy acts that would potentially destroy his/her entire life. The believer has to deny even innocent pleasures in order to sharpen his relationship with God and the rest of the community, starting from his own family.

Another stake would be perseverance in Christ's promises in costly commitments. This might be someone who remains faithful to a marriage that, for one reason or another, now demands great sacrifices. Or it might be someone who raises a child with severe disabilities, simply because that child bears God's image. This person has ventured everything on the truth of Christ's words. The parable does not even consider the case of a servant who trades with his master's capital and loses it; for there is nothing ventured on the strength of Christ's promises—no matter how small or how hidden—that Christ cannot turn to a profit.

Ultimately, Christ recognizes only two kinds of persons: those who have risked and won, and those who— for fear of losing— have not risked at all. The number of talents we start with seems to be beside the point. Ironically, it is those who fear losing anything who will lose everything. And those who risk everything who will receive the greatest share: "Well done, good and faithful servant ... come, share your master's joy." And the master's joy will be the largest and most startling of all figures (edited +AMDG+).

This is what we read in the lives of many men and women in the Holy Scriptures. When we take risks with God, we gain all He has. We can never know God in His Power and love without taking risk with Him. Another word for risk here would be Trust. It would not be trust if we knew what risk means for us.

God's blessings,

Fr. Vince



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

The RCIA Journey continues!

All are invited to share in the journey to learn more about our faith.
We meet every **Wednesday at 7:15 pm in the St Joseph Centre.**

NEXT TOPIC (22nd November): Jesus: His Life and Ministry



Parish Working Bee

25 November, Saturday, from 8am

If you can spare an hour or so on this date, we could really use your help. This annual working bee is always a fun time to meet people, tidy up the church and its surroundings, clean around the parish house, get the church ready for Advent and Christmas, and then sit for a well-deserved cuppa! Sign-up sheets are in the foyer. See you there!

26 November, Sunday, 10am

At the 10am Mass on the Feast of Christ the King, we will be joined by the **SRE students of our local state schools.** They will take part in our parade of flags and the various parts of the Mass. Please come to share this wonderful day with them.

After Mass, we would like to invite everyone to take part in our **International Morning Tea.** You are invited to share a plate of something from your country of origin. Please write down what you will bring on the sheet in the foyer. **SEE YOU THERE!!!**



Children's Liturgy

Our Children's Liturgy Christmas party will be held on Sunday 26th November after 10am Mass. Come and celebrate the end of the year as well as the coming of Jesus. The last children's liturgy for 2017 will be 10th December.

Christmas Goodies for sale! (25/26 November)

Watch for our delicious Christmas fruit cakes, fruit mince pies, and family apple pies! Proceeds will go to our various parish ministries.

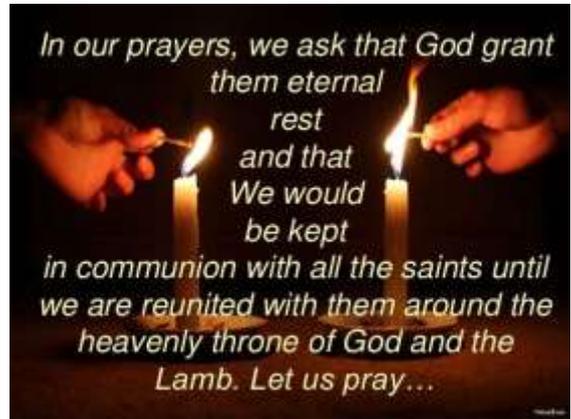
Friendship Group Healing Mass and Christmas luncheon for retired parishioners.

All retired parishioners are invited to this annual event, to be held on **Thursday, 30th November at 12nn.**

Please RSVP by 23rd November.

(Jenny - 96513330, Lesley - 96792022, ofc - 96542260)

Throughout the month of November, we pray and offer all our Masses for all our dearly departed, especially those mentioned in our Remembrance Book.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For healing of the sick

Ivan Ceccato, Dan Doyle, Tony Virgona, Bernadette McLoughlin, Karen Bligh, Elizabeth Graby, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Teresa Masiello, Johann, Joe Gelonesi, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, Harriett Rogers, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Rosanna Ceroli, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Donard Doyle, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Giuseppe Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Christy Sherlock, Tina, Marie, Joe, Charles Vencyel, Maisie Hughes, and Christine Wilson.



JUNIOR MINISTERS TRAINING

By special request, we will be conducting another training session for Junior Ministers

on Wednesday, 29th November at 3:30pm in the church. Please call 96542260 for any enquiries.



The next Baptism

preparation session will be on Saturday,

2nd December at 4:30-5:30pm

at the St Joseph Centre. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260. The last Baptism date for 2017 is 10th December.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1473.65

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1902 **Loose** = \$ 1059.10

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 4896.10 (target = \$5577)

If you donate to the parish and have recently changed your credit card, please phone the parish office on 96542260.

Thank you for your generosity!



SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

You may have noticed the fencing near the church doors. These have been put in place while the primary school upgrades their **toilet block** adjacent to the church. In the meantime, there will be signs leading to the toilets we can use. From the 21st of November, there will also be fencing around the **netball courts** as they construct their covered outdoor learning area. That area will not be available for parking for the duration of construction. These projects are estimated to be completed by the time school starts on 29th January 2018. Thank you for your understanding.

Advent & Christmas

Let's prepare our hearts for Christmas!

*Come join our **Advent Reflections** in the church on the Tuesdays of Advent at 7pm. (28th Nov, 5th Dec, 12th Dec, 19th Dec)

We will be reflecting on the readings in the book "Chosen". Copies are available in the foyer for \$3.



*Come for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation!**

>You can join the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation organised by the North Deanery. These services will be held on:
20th Dec, Wed, 7:30pm at St Bernadette's, Castle Hill
21st Dec, Thur, 7:30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville; or
>You can go to confession on Saturdays, from 4:45-5:15 at our chapel.

*Bring joy to the **elderly and lonely.**

>Join our Christmas liturgies on Wednesday, 6th Dec:
10:30 at Lady of Grace Nursing Home
1:00 at Carinya House
>Mass on Thursday, 7th Dec, 10:15 at Bupa Aged Care

*Share with the **poor.**

>Prepare a hamper for less-fortunate families, to be offered at our Hamper Mass. Details to follow.
>Give to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal on the weekend of 9th/10th December.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE SCHEDULE OF MASSES

>For 4th Sunday of Advent—Saturday, 23rd Dec at 5:30, Sunday, 24th at 8am ONLY; **no 10am**
>**Christmas Masses—**
24th, Sunday: Family Mass—5:30 carols and Mass at 6pm
24th: Midnight Mass—12mn
25th: 8am and 10am; **no 5:30pm Mass**
(The Office will be closed on 26-29 December)
>Weekend of 30th/31st—regular times of 5:30 Sat, 8am, 10am, and 5:30pm
>1st January—Mary, Mother of God, 9:00am

St Madeleine's Kenthurst Gala Dinner

Mark your calendars! Friday, 16th Feb 2018

7pm, Oatlands House,

42 Bettington Road, Oatlands

(We will organise a bus from the church to the venue!)

Do you have prizes we can auction on the night?

Please contact Maria on 0402 280 890

or email mariaalossa@gmail.com

Let us continue to pray for our application to build our long-awaited church! May the Lord bless our dreams and plans!

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE POSTAL SURVEY RESULT

The **Diocese of Parramatta** respects the will of the Australia people as expressed through the results of the same-sex marriage postal survey.

It now seems likely that civil marriage will be open to people of the same-sex and we respect that outcome.

The Catholic Church will continue to promote and practice the tenet of our faith that marriage is a lifelong union of a man and a woman, open to the possibility of children. The survey has confirmed that this is a position shared by millions of people in this country.

The focus is now on our parliament to ensure that the proper freedoms are legislated to guarantee that the many people who remain in favour of the traditional definition of marriage are free to speak, teach and act on this belief.



From Archbishop Denis Hart, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

Parliament must work to unify Australians by respecting different views on marriage, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Denis Hart said today in the wake of the result of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

"The Catholic Church, and many others who sought to retain the definition of marriage as it has been understood for centuries, continues to view marriage as a special union between a woman and a man, which allows for the creation and nurture of children," Archbishop Hart said.

"A change in civil law does not change the Catholic understanding of the nature of marriage.

"The Catholic Church continues to respect the dignity of LGBTIQ Australians and our ministries will continue to care deeply about the dignity and value of all people we encounter.

"Parliamentarians must recognise and respect the concerns of the more than 4.8 million Australians who opposed a change to the definition of marriage by putting in place strong conscience and religious freedom protections.

"These protections must ensure that Australians can continue to express their views on marriage, that faith-based schools can continue to teach the traditional understanding of marriage and that organisations can continue to operate in a manner that is consistent with those values."

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION APPEAL

This weekend, the Catholic Foundation is being launched throughout the parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta.

The Catholic Foundation replaces the Diocesan Works Fund and will support the formation of seminarians,

Christian education in public schools, job training for the disabled, single mothers facing homelessness.

We invite all Parishioners to support these good works by giving generously to this weekend's appeal.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator: Amira Campo

Music Coordinators:

Barbara Mathias and Joan Sattler

Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Deb Rankin

Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton

RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry

Playgroup Coordinator: Grainne Barker

SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones

Friendship Group: Jenny Puleo

Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator:

Peter Balnaves

Property Maintenance Manager: Dan Doyle

Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Pat Brush

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Michael Parslow

PARISH TEAM
 Parish Priest:
 Rev Vincent Savarimuthu
 Parish Secretary:
 Lisa Echevarria
 Sacramental Coordinator
 Sally Coppini
St Madeleine's Primary School
 Phone: 9654 6751
 Principal: Mrs Jeanette Black
 Marian College
 Phone: 9654 6700
 Principal: Mrs Jayne Campbell

PARISH SERVICES
 Weekend Masses:
 Saturday 5.30pm
 (Eucharistic Adoration at 4:45)
 Sunday 8:00am, 10:00 am, 5.30pm
Children's Liturgy
 10am Mass during School terms
 Weekday Masses:
 9:15, Tuesdays to Fridays
 Playgroup –Tue 9:00am
 at St Joseph Centre during school terms
 Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the
 9.15 am Mass
 Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm
 Baptisms: Every 4th Sunday at 11:20,
 or during 10am Masses
 Weddings: By appointment

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THIS WEEK		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	Judith Gauci	Maria & Steve Fry	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Margaret & Michael Foley
	ACOLYTE	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli CareyAnne Moylan	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Nuri Wardrop Lorraine Ewer	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Lesley Gangemi Janelle Bawden
	JUN MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Jack McNeil Patrick McNeil	Luke Masiello Sam Coddington	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS	Pat & Bev	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, Matt & MJM	Youth Group
COUNTERS	(21 November) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY		Marie Coddington

25/26 NOV	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Amira & John Campo	Helen Ross	
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Neil John	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Trish Keating Colleen Dunlop	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Amira Campo Justin Sebire	Patrick Tuttle Jenny Naglic	
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Trish Keating Dianne Millington	Frances Sanders Margaret Steele	Ann & Mark Lee	Gael Carpani Bev Hermens	
	JUN MINISTERS	Brosnan Leahy	Vincent Macdonald Patrick McNeil	Lorena Campo James Whittle	Clarissa Vumbaca Thomas Barker	
	MUSICIANS	Pat & Bev	Joan & David	Bobby & Doug	Youth Group	
	COUNTERS	(28 Nov) Paul Vella and Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY		Christmas Party
	FLOWERS	Teresa Capaldi, arr'd by Joy Rogers & Carmel Heinrich		ALTAR LINEN		Barbara Madafiglio