



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



**Second Sunday
of Advent
10th December 2017**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

"The past is behind: learn from it.
The future is ahead: prepare for it.
The present is here: live it!"

Thomas S. Monson

A patient called up her doctor. Something is wrong with her; she needed emergency treatment in her house. "Can you have somebody fetch me because my car broke down today?" the doctor said. "My husband and my children are here," the patient replied. "All of them can drive but I can't allow them to get you because I'm afraid of their safety. Besides, my car is brand-new. It might be carnapped or be dented from an accident. Why don't you just flag down a taxi so that you can come here?"

The doctor got a taxi and set out to his patient's house. Immediately he checked her up. "You have a serious case of hypertension; your blood pressure is very high. Unless you do something drastic about your condition, you will die," the doctor said. "Can you take this medicine regularly?" "I can't," was the patient's reply. "I'm a busy person. I have many other things to do."

Can you refrain from eating fatty foods and have a low-salt diet?" the doctor asked her again. "I can't because they are my favourite. And how can I have appetite for food lacking in salt?"

"Can you at least do some exercises? You really need to lessen your weight and improve your blood circulation," the doctor said. "I can't because I just want to relax, eat and sleep."

"Then there is one thing I can do," the doctor said. "What is that?" asked the patient. "I will contact a funeral parlour and advise its agents that you will be dead any day from now. I might get a bigger commission this time!" the doctor replied (Anonymous)

Just like this doctor who gave advice to his patient on what to do, today's gospel talks about Saint John the Baptist who tells us the ways of preparing ourselves for experiencing the presence of Jesus in ourselves and our families, and making him present to others, in one way or other, especially the disadvantaged. Perhaps, we have to embrace compassion, forgiveness, justice and selflessness and thus straighten the crooked roads of our lives and transform the deserts barren of love into places of welcome and reconciliation. We need to look at filling the valleys – the needful spaces with the valued and virtues. John's advice to make the rough edges plain consists in remodelling our lives and retracing our paths to God.

Let us heed the challenge of John the Baptist and make Christ's selfless and generous presence and action into a reality. Have a reflective reading of the following story from Brian Cavanaugh in 'Sower's Seeds of Christian Family Values:

Martin Buber tells the story about a rabbi's disciple who begged his master to teach him how to prepare his soul for the service of God. The holy man told him to go to Rabbi Abraham, who at the time, was still an innkeeper. The disciple did as instructed and lived in the inn for several weeks without observing any vestige of holiness in the innkeeper, who, from Morning Prayer till night devoted himself to affairs of his business. Finally the disciple approached him and asked him what he did all day. "My most important occupation" said Rabbi Abraham, "is to clean the dishes properly, so that not the slightest trace of food is left, and to clean and dry the pots and pans, so that they do not rust." When the disciple returned home and reported to his rabbi what he had seen and

heard, the rabbi said to him, "Now you know the answer about how to prepare your soul for the service of God." The way to reach God is by doing everything wholeheartedly and genuinely; everything (and every act) is full of God's holiness -so treat it accordingly with dignity and respect.



God's blessings, Fr. Vince



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

You are invited to share the RCIA Journey!

All are invited learn more about our faith.

We meet every **Wednesday at 7pm in the St Joseph Centre.**

NEXT TOPIC (13th December): The Holy Spirit

Let us pray for brothers and sisters who are on this journey.



Everyone is invited to join the choir practice on **Tuesday, 12th December, 7pm in the church.** Come to learn the hymns for Advent and Christmas and get to meet other people from our parish!

PIETY STALL

Get your Christmas fruit cakes and fruit mince tarts! Proceeds go towards our parish ministries.



Get a copy of "God's Word Daily Reflections 2018" for \$10.

Good to have at home for daily reflections! Great gift idea!



Get your Majellan Christmas cards and Columban calendars before we run out!



Have a browse for lovely little Christmas gift ideas!



Christmas Eve Family Mass 6pm

Actors needed!!

Practice Tuesday 12th December 3.30pm

This Tuesday's Advent Discussion will be held at the St Joseph Centre at 7pm. All are welcome !

Singers of all ages are invited to sing with the St Madeleine's Primary School Choir at the Christmas Eve Family Mass on 24th December at 6pm, starting with carols at 5:30.

There will be a rehearsal on Thursday, 21st December, at 9:45am-12:30 in the hall! Please come!!!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

2nd Rite of Reconciliation services:

20th Dec, Wed, 7:30pm at St Bernadette's, Castle Hill

21st Dec, Thur, 7:30pm at OLOR, Kellyville

Confessions in our chapel every Saturday from 4:45-5:15

For 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 23rd Dec at 5:30,

Sunday, 24th at 8am ONLY; **no 10am Mass**

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

*We pray for the eternal repose of the soul of
Rosario "Ross" Arico.*

*Ross's funeral will be held at St Madeleine's
on Wednesday, 13th December, at 10am.*

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Rosario "Ross" Arico, Donard Doyle, Orfeo Bandiera and Bernadette McLoughlin

For the dearly departed

Patrick Joseph Bradley Jnr, Sarah Elizabeth Doyle, Francesco Piperata, Luigi Morato, Norman and Chahide Hajje, Sheaddy and Chahid Hajje, Hanna and Raymond Chiha, Mary Merhi, Youssef and Emily Maait, Setna Mulvihill, and the deceased members of the Mulvihill and Culligan families

For healing of the sick

Ivan Ceccato, Violet Hobbs, Dan Doyle, Tony Virgona, 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, 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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1279.70

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1730 **Loose** = \$ 867

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 4532 (target = \$5577)

*****THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION*****

Your contributions amounted to \$12,154.95

Thank you for your generosity to this appeal.

TAKE NOTE FOR NEXT WEEK:

There will be no 9:15 Mass on Wednesday, 13 Dec, due to the funeral Mass at 10am.

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration next Saturday, 16th December.



This weekend, we are conducting the **Vinnies Christmas Appeal** in our parish. If you would like to donate by credit card or if you would like to get a receipt for your donation, please use one of the appeal envelopes. Please put all other cash donations in the Poor Box in the foyer. Thank you for your generous hearts!

Please take a copy of the letter from Bishop Vincent Long regarding an update on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Copies are available in the foyer.

St Madeleine's Kenthurst

Gala Dinner

Fundraiser for the New Church

- Date:** 16th February 2018
Venue: Oatlands House
42 Bettington Road, Oatlands
Time: 7.00 pm – 11.30 pm
Dress: Cocktail
Tickets: \$130 per person; (Book a Table of 10)
Call: 9654 2260 / 0402 280 890 or go to www.trybooking.com/330786
Includes: 4 course meal, Beer & Wine, Tea & Coffee Entertainment, Dancing, Live auction, Raffles
Transport: Available if needed



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

Congratulations to
Clark Samyja and Cove Watkin
as they receive the Sacrament of Baptism
this weekend.



CHURCH SACRAMENTS



The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **6th January 2018** at **4:30-5:30pm** at the St Joseph Centre. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260. Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 11:20am, or within a 10am Mass on the other Sundays.

Preparations for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for children who have received their First Communion and are in Year 5 or higher, will begin in February 2018. If you would like to receive notifications about the program, please email your name to stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

Positions Vacant

Youth Minister – St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill. More details at: www.parracatholic.org/employment

Year of Youth

This weekend launches the Year of Youth for the Australian Catholic Church. A time to refocus our faith communities on walking with young people in their midst and for young people to answer Pope Francis' call to 'open new horizons for spreading joy'. The Year of Youth invites the church into dialogue about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the Church and society. It calls for dialogue and active engagement that reconnects and renews this generation of young people in the life of the Church ten years on since World Youth Day in Sydney. Please pray for the 19,000 young people from across Australia and the 2,500 from the Diocese of Parramatta sharing their faith at Olympic Park these last few days for the triennial Australian Catholic Youth Festival. For more information contact James Camden at Catholic Youth Parramatta (02) 8838 3428.

Volunteers for the homeless needed

The Order of Malta requires volunteers to visit 'homeless hotspots' around Parramatta. Volunteer drivers, nurses and paramedics are needed to provide this service to Parramatta's homeless. If you would like to learn more, please email info@smom.org.au

Ordination to Priesthood of Shinto Francis: 16 December

Deacon Shinto Francis will be ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Parramatta on Saturday 16 December at 10.30am in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. The principal celebrant will be Most Rev Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta. Everyone is welcome. The Mass will also be livestreamed on YouTube and accessible via www.parracatholic.org on the day.

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator: Amira Campo	Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton	Property Maintenance Manager: Dan Doyle
Music Coordinators: Barbara Mathias and Joan Sattler	RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry	Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone
Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil	Playgroup Coordinator: Grainne Barker	Altar Linen Coordinator: Pat Brush
Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Deb Rankin	SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones	Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle
	Friendship Group: Jenny Puleo	Finance Committee Chair: Michael Parslow
	Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator: Peter Balnaves	

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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* School Terms 8:30am – 3:30pm
(closed school holidays)

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qualified

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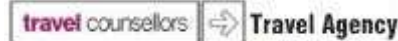
Mobile local lawyer over 15 years
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family law needs
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your family
0498235527

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group tour 14 days/12 nights (18 -31 May 2018) with EMIRATES!

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Lourdes St Bernadette, Burgos Cathedral of St Mary,
Santiago de Compostela St James,
Lisbon the Hieronymite Monastery & Belém Tower.
Adult cost: \$4800 / Children 5-11 years cost: \$3900
For full itinerary information or to book please contact:

DEBORAH BARTOLO - TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

Rail/Cruise/Tours/Day Trips/Wedding
Registry, Honeymoons/Corporate Travel
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E: deborah.bartolo@travelcounsellors.com.au
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THIS WEEK		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Peter Firkins	Joseph Spina
	ACOLYTE	Vince Luca	Neil John	Phillys Hannah	Joe Touma
	READERS	Stephen Kinchington Paul Cashman	Dan Doyle Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Youth Group
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Colleen Dunlop Maria Aiossa	Tricia Spencer Kathy White	Sandra Tabone	Selina Calleia Jason Hatcher
	JUN MINISTERS	Dominic Bruggeling	Vincent Macdonald	Christopher Kang Kerstin Grima	Thomas Barker James Barker
	MUSICIANS	St Mads school choir	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(12 Dec) Sandra Tabone & Michelle Romeo		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Ann Marie Duncan
16/17 DEC	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	Monica & Dom Bruggeling Annabelle Rogers	Jack & Patrick McNeil	Luke Masiello James Whittle	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS	Grant & Natalie	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, Matt & MJM	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(19 Dec) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	FLOWERS	Peter Tallaridi arr by Mari Gregory & Maureen Meryment		ALTAR LINEN	Pat Brush