



28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst, NSW 2156
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www.stmadeleine.org.au
Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



**Third Sunday
of Advent**
Gaudate Sunday
17th December 2017
Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

THE WEAPON OF JOY

We are in the 3rd Sunday of Advent known as Gaudate Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for "Rejoice". It is a reminder that as Christians, we are to be joyful people. The joyfulness seen in Catholics, and in their relationships with others should be a witness to the world of the Love of God and the transforming power of His grace to those who embrace Him. This radiating joy should inspire others to seek the source of such peace. Yet, in our consumerist culture, for many this joy seems to be lost. Why? Is it because of the lack of establishing and maintaining a close relationship with Christ? And also the inability to see the image of Christ in those around them?

I happened to read the following some years back (don't know the source exactly, nonetheless gratefully acknowledged).

Men have pursued joy in every avenue imaginable. Some have successfully found it while others have not. Perhaps it would be easier to describe where joy cannot be found:

Not in Unbelief -- Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: "I wish I had never been born."

Not in Pleasure -- Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure if anyone did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and grief are mine alone."

Not in Money -- Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said: "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

Not in Position and Fame -- Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: "Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age regret."

Not in Military Glory -- Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent, before he said, "There are no more worlds to conquer."

Where then is real joy found? -- The answer is simple, in our "happy God" alone. To find that joy, we need to have Faith. Many of us are experiencing tough times, have lost jobs, enduring hardships, personal losses, down with sickness and various pressures of life and insurmountable obstacles. To be joyful is entirely impossible! Yet, our faith can help us change the ways we approach and handle the hiccups of our life. Faith enlarges our vision to see the value of suffering and directs our attitudes.

"There is a story about the power that a mother had on her family at a time of trial and when all seemed lost. One day the father of the family came home from work and announced that he lost all his money because his business partner tricked him and ran away with the company's funds. The likelihood of poverty seemed eminent and despair just around the corner. Yet, that same evening, the mother of the family went out, sold some of her expensive jewelry, and bought food for a family feast. People criticized her for recklessly spending at a time when poverty was staring the family right in their face.

But she told them "the time for joy was now, when we need it the most, not next week, and God will provide." Her courageous act, and deep faith, rallied the family and gave them the hope they needed to face the future with confidence and to trust that God was still in control".

As long as we have the conviction that God is in control of our life, we will experience the joy welling up from our hearts no matter what trial, obstacle, or discomfort comes upon us.

"Massena, one of Napoleon's generals, suddenly appeared with eighteen thousand men before an Austrian town which had no means of defense. The town council had nearly decided to surrender when the old dean of the church reminded them that it was Easter and begged them to hold services as usual and to leave the trouble in God's hands. This they did; and the French hearing the church bells ringing joyfully concluded that an Austrian army had come to relieve the place and quickly broke camp. Before the bells ceased ringing, all the Frenchmen had vanished.

The incident has often been duplicated in individual lives. They have rung the joy bells in the face of pain, and sickness, and poverty, and fear, and loneliness, and all other trials. Then the joy bells have conquered. Speedily, the foe has slunk away. Speedily, the bell ringers have found themselves in possession of the field. For no enemy is quite so strong as faith accompanied with good cheer".

(Source: *One Thousand Evangelistic Illustrations*, Aquilla Webb.)

Let's stay joyful in Jesus!

Fr. Vince

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

Christmas Eve Family Mass



We are inviting any children wishing to lead the singing at our very special Christmas Eve Family Mass!

Where: School Hall

When: Sunday, 24th December, 5:30pm
(Meet outside the school office at 5:10)

Wear: Smart casual

We will be holding a rehearsal to give a chance to learn and review all the songs for the evening.

Where: School Hall

When: Thursday, 21st December, 9:45am-12:00

What to bring: Small snack and a drink

See you there!

TAKE NOTE FOR NEXT WEEK:

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration next Saturday, 23rd December.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Blake Tickell, Lolita Farmer, Rosario "Ross" Arico, Donard Doyle, Orfeo Bandiera and Bernadette McLoughlin

For the dearly departed

Pablito Corpuz, Theresa & Liam Hughes, Michelle Vaccarella, Giuseppe Vumbaca, Salvatore Murdocca, Maria-Rosa & Raffeale Murdocca, Patrick Joseph Bradley Jnr, Marcello Pellizzon, deceased members of the Turcato family, 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, Giuseppi 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.

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!*



Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.

— Pope Francis —

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1555.95

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1700 **Loose** = \$ 1165.60

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 4421.55 (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!

OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

Positions Vacant

Youth Minister - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill.
Accounts Officer - Chancery Office, Parramatta.
More details at: www.parracatholic.org/employment

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will shortly release its final findings on public hearings, and its recommendations, related to the Catholic Church in Australia. The Diocese of Parramatta once again offers its unreserved and deepest apologies to those many people who have suffered because of the child sexual abuse that has occurred in the context of Church ministry. In particular, the Diocese of Parramatta apologises to survivors of abuse and their families for the hurt and suffering this abuse has caused throughout their lives. During the Royal Commission, the Diocese of Parramatta has strived to engage in their processes with openness, transparency and a commitment to learning about our history so that our child protection policies and procedures are strengthened and there is restored confidence in Church ministry. The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit www.safeguarding.org.au. For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3419. Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444.

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

Mass of the Holy Innocents: 28 December

The principal celebrant for the Annual Mass of the Holy Innocents will be Fr Benedict La Volpe OFM Conv. Mass at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville, followed by a rosary procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents. A luncheon will be provided - please bring a plate to share. Inquiries (02) 9629 2595.

Feast of the Holy Family Vigil: 30 December

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite families and youth (aged 18-35) to join us for a Celebration Vigil for Feast of the Holy Family on Saturday 30 December at 2:30 pm. Pizza from 5:30pm. 116-132 Quakers Road, 2148 Marayong NSW. Please RSVP to Sr Paula by 28 December on vocationscsfn@gmail.com or 0449 656 406

For more events please go to: <http://parracatholic.org/events/>

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

Thank you for the
HAMPERS



Thank you for your generosity.

The House of Welcome and the Jesuit Refugee Service were so delighted and very grateful.

Blessings to you all!



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



RCIA sessions to resume on 8th February at 7pm.

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

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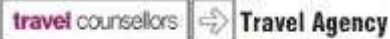
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Lourdes St Bernadette, Burgos Cathedral of St Mary,
Santiago de Compostela St James,
Lisbon the Hieronymite Monastery & Belém Tower.
Adult cost: \$4800 / Children 5-11 years cost: \$3900
For full itinerary information or to book please contact:

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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	Monica & Dom Bruggeling Annabelle Rogers	Jack & Patrick McNeil	Luke Masiello James Whittle	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS	Grant & Natalie	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, Matt & JMJ	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(19 Dec) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

23/24 DEC	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carmel & Mike O'Connell
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Maria Aiossa	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Trish Keating Dianne Millington	Frances Sanders Margaret Steele
	JUN MINISTERS	Brosnan Leahy Finn Sebire	Patrick McNeil
	MUSICIANS	Joan	Bev, Pat & David
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella and Belle Craig	
	FLOWERS	Peter Tallaridi arr by Rita Vumbaca	
ALTAR LINEN	Pat Brush		

