



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst, NSW 2156

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



**A Blessed
Christmas to all!
25 December 2017**

Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the **meaningless and stressing the true values**" - Thomas S. Monson

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to you all!

Christmas is "God breaking into human history" and becoming one of us. Today's history is marred by many selfish and narrow-minded people resulting in the proliferation of violence and heinous crimes and the future of the young generation looks bleak. The clarion call of Christmas for us is that we need to create a new history wherein every human person is safe, secure and having the basic needs enough for livelihood.

It is good to be alive. It is good to be human. It is good to be engaged in life. The Incarnation, i.e. Christmas, is a celebration of God's affirmation of the goodness of life and especially human life. It is a celebration of God's engagement in life here on earth and even in the challenges, doubts, struggles, questions, poverty and injustices of life. Some people feel lost in the complexities and uncertainties of life. Some are excited about the rapid changes in every spectrum of life. Engulfed with many problems in life, everyone strives to find solutions in the political power or money or worldly things or money. The Christmas lesson is that the answer can be found only in the child born in poverty.

Much of our day is spent in getting; we get up in the morning in order to get a good breakfast before we get a ride to work. We get in gear and get the job done so we might get a paycheck that will pay for a getaway on the weekend, so we might get rest to get a jump on the coming week. Christmas challenges us to become people of giving rather than getting. Giving sounds noble and we instinctively know it's the right thing to do. But, in practice, giving is difficult. True giving involves concern for others, and ultimately it requires the demolition of pride and self-centeredness. Giving is a sacrifice, letting go of at least part of that what we believe to be ours. The greatest mystery is that in giving, we get. What we get may not be what we had originally intended to get. Yet, those who are generous in their giving repeatedly say what they get in return is always far more valuable and meaningful than what they give or what they had originally intended to get. (Source of the thoughts is duly acknowledged)

Norman Vincent Peale once said: "The man who lives for himself is a failure. Even if he gains much wealth, position, or power, he is still a failure. The man who lives for others has achieved true success. A rich man who consecrated his wealth and his position to the good of humanity is a success. A poor man who gives of his service and his sympathy to others has achieved a true success, even though material prosperity or outward honours never come to him".

A little girl in ill-fitting clothes was descending the church stairs. Clearly, she came from a poor family. A man who disliked religion was passing by and asked her, "If there is a God who loves you so much as you think, wouldn't that God tell someone to house and clothe you properly?" The girl answered, "I think God did tell someone, but they were not listening, or maybe they just forget".

Christmas is a time to remind ourselves that we need to be the people of giving in the footsteps of Jesus, and many other historical men and women. The message of Christmas stands clear: find a way to give always whether of your material blessings, service, respect, dignity, tears, laughter, ideas, love and justice, not driven by a pay back. The payback will come, but its arrival will be a joyful surprise in your day!

The long-awaited free-standing church will soon be a reality in our parish and I request all of you to extend your support in various ways towards it. We pray and hope that we will be able to begin the construction early next year. We are organizing the 'gala dinner' on February 16, 2018 (details at our parish website or flyers in the foyer of the church) in view of raising funds for the new church. Having the church will be a major milestone in the history of our parish which will bring fresh air into the growth of our community. Your prayer and financial support will enable us to make our dream true. You are welcome to have a chat with me in this regard.

Christmas brings us the message that despite the tragedies that man inflicts upon man, the goodness of man prevails because of the fact that God-Man Jesus is vibrantly present in our midst. Let us be good and do good in Jesus!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

The Year That Was: Numbers Speak



Flower Donors and arrangers increased from 8 individuals to 18!



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Team of 10 with 16 helpers for 187 children (81 Confirmation; 106 Communion)



35 children baptised!

4 adult Confirmations



1 Wedding

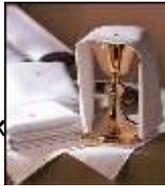


6 Funerals

9 dedicated volunteers visit 5 nursing homes and retirement homes to give Communion to over 60 people every week.



7 wonderful women who work year round to look after our altar linen.



6 volunteers who do Children's Liturgy for an average of 25 kids per week during the 40 weeks of school terms



About 25 young people regularly supporting the YOUTH MASSES

Holy Mass

- Over 400 weekend and weekday Masses
- Over 30 welcomers
- Over 40 readers
- Close to 40 Eucharistic Ministers
- 11 Senior servers/acolytes
- Over 40 Junior ministers (18 new!)
- Over 20 regular collectors
- Over 40 musicians and singers
- Average attendance of 520 every weekend
- Masses for over 400 primary school students and over 1000 high school students

Weekly catechism to 480 children in neighbouring state schools by 15 parish volunteers and student volunteers from Marian College.



9 super reliable COLLECTION COUNTERS



About 40 joined the Lenten Pilgrimage to Mulgoa



14 parish volunteers formed the Parish Council, Finance Committee, and DA Committees. Met countless times to get the new church project where it is. We are hoping for Hills Shire Council approval by January!

Gala Dinner

300 tickets already reserved!



21 new families registered with the parish

2 hugely successful Women's Breakfasts



Over 30 helpers at the Working Bee

Incredibly successful outreach appeals!

For Don Bosco Anbu Illam home for children with HIV+ parents

Christmas goods Appeal for Sri Lanka Hamper appeal for House of Welcome and the Jesuit Refugee Service

Generous contributions to Project Compassion Catholic Mission St Vincent de Paul

Diocesan Works Fund/ The Catholic Foundation

Over 2000 families registered in our database!

Healing Mass and Christmas Luncheon attended by about 70 retired parishioners, organised by the Super 4.



Planned Giving

258 regular givers!



Over 150 volunteers ran the Country Fair raising the biggest amount yet for our parish ministries!

You can be a part of these ministries!!!

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!*

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT
the parish office will be closed on
26-29 December and
there will be no 9:15 Masses on those days.**

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

Paul Spina, Martin Mileto, Giuseppi Mileto, Pietro Ceccato,
deceased members of the Ferraro family, Jed Manning,
Pablito Corpuz, Theresa & Liam Hughes,
Michelle Vaccarella, Giuseppe Vumbaca,
Salvatore Murdocca,
Maria-Rosa & Raefele 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, and Christine Wilson.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:
1st Collection (for Diocese) =
\$ 1331.15
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$ 1672
Loose = \$ 1059.05
Credit cards/Direct Debit
ave weekly = \$1935
TOTAL = \$ 4666.05
(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!

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



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

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country on which we worship



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MICHELLE'S HAPPY HENS & DUCKLINGS!

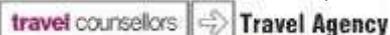
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Includes all flight, luxury coach touring & director,
accommodation, travel wallet & backpack,
11 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 10 dinners
INCLUDED: Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, Carcassonne,
Montserrat Benedictine monastery, Fátima,
Lourdes St Bernadette, Burgos 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
Berkshire Park: **0424 035 489; Toll free: 1300 401 391**
E: deborah.bartolo@travelcounsellors.com.au
<https://www.facebook.com/berkshirepkctc>



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* School Terms 8:30am – 3:30pm
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	5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm	
30/31 DEC	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Rosa Carlino	Teresa Capaldi Amira & John Campo	Michelle & John Romeo
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Phyllis Hannah	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Eileen Sherlock Gerry McArdle	AnnMarie Duncan Marietta Nesci	Simmy Cesamolo Jan Schroder
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Kathy White Eileen Sherlock	Sue Martin Sandra Tabone	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	JUN MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling		James Whittle Finn Sebire	Thomas Barker James Barker
	MUSICIANS	Pat & Bev	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark & Matt	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	FLOWERS	Peter Tallaridi, arr by Mari Gregory & Maureen Meryment		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow

In *The Reed of God*, Caryll Houselander, a lay catholic woman of the early 64th century writes:

"if Christ is growing in us, if we are at peace, recollected, because we know that however insignificant our life seems to be, from it He is forming Himself; if we go with eager wills, 'in haste,' to wherever our circumstances compel us, because we believe that He desires to be in that place, we shall find that we are driven more and more to act on the impulse of His love.

"And the answer we shall get from others to those impulses will be an awakening into life, or the leap into joy of the already wakened life within them.

"It is only necessary to give ourselves to that life (growing within us)...to pray without ceasing, not by a continual effort to concentrate our minds but by a growing awareness that Christ is being formed in our lives from what we are. We must trust him for this...."

The Grace of God has appeared... may Christ find a welcome home in our hearts today and in the days to come.