



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2017

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

“Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting”- Henri Nouwen



The world is supposedly less complicated with the rapid technological advancement. The reality is that we still find ourselves waiting. Waiting for that package to arrive that we ordered online in record speed. Waiting in line at the self-checkout station at the supermarket, designed to eliminate the evils of waiting. Waiting a few extra seconds for that text to send when the signal isn't great.

Waiting for that great job to come along. Or waiting for that elusive perfect relationship. It never ends.

Researchers tell us that the average person will spend 5 years of his or her life waiting in line, 2 years playing telephone tag, and six months sitting at red lights. That is over 7 and a half years of waiting, at best doing nothing, or at worst experiencing great aggravation!

The bottom line is that even in our fast-paced world, with postmodern conveniences, we are all waiting for something. In line with this thinking, I came across an article by Marc Cortez about the significance of waiting. I just wanted to share it with you in the hope that it may make you patient next time as you wait for something.

The advent season is all about waiting. During advent, we're reminded of all those centuries when God's people awaited the fulfillment of God's promises, the years of uncertainty, the time of doubt. This side of Christmas, it's easy to think that this season is all about *arrival*, the birth of Jesus. And that's partly true. The story does find its fitting climax in the coming of the Messiah. But let's not forget the waiting that preceded Christ's advent, the waiting that marked the time before Christmas, the waiting that God forced his people to endure.

Maybe a little waiting is a good thing. Here are five things that I think we can get from waiting. They probably won't help much the next time that you're stuck in a traffic jam on your way to an important event, but I still think they're worth reflecting on.

1. Waiting reminds us that we are not the centre of the universe: It's so easy to get caught up in our own plans, convinced that everything we do is absolutely, crucially important. That's part of what makes waiting so frustrating, and so valuable. Being forced to wait gives us the opportunity to remember that other people have plans and priorities as well. We are not the focal point of the universe. That doesn't make our plans unimportant, but it does put them in perspective.

2. Waiting reminds us that God is in control: At the very least, waiting forces us to realise that we are NOT in control and that can be a valuable opportunity to reflect on who is.

3. Waiting reminds us that life is a gift: Forced to sit at a stop light for several precious minutes, I have a choice. I can choose to grumble and gripe about the loss of my precious time, or I can remember that those very minutes were a gift God gave me so that I might have the opportunity to live for his glory. Sure, this wasn't how I'd planned to use them. But that doesn't change the gift.

4. Waiting reminds us that the present matters: Sometimes I think waiting frustrates us because we're too future-oriented, always focused on what comes next. But what about now? Next is in God's hands. Now is what we have. Done well, being forced to wait can be like watching a particularly spectacular movie scene in slow motion. You know the movie will continue playing at regular speed soon, but for now you're just enjoying what's on the screen.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

CONTINUATION...

5. Waiting reminds us that the future is bigger than we think: Sometimes waiting frustrates us because we're not future-oriented enough. We try not to think about it much, but I think we all have a sense of our own mortality, and it seeps out when we're forced to wait. We have a finite amount of time, why waste any of it waiting for things to happen? But, of course, our time isn't really finite. We're destined for eternity. That doesn't mean we can get complacent with the time we have now, but waiting can remind us that this life is part of something much larger. In the light of eternity, is a two-minute wait at the grocery store really that onerous?



The advent season is a great opportunity to think differently about time. God made his people wait for centuries before he fulfilled his promises to them in sending the Messiah. At the very least, the waiting reminds us that this is God's story, his plan, and his promises. He is in control, and he will take this story wherever he pleases. And it reminds us, slaps us in the face at times, that we're not the centre of the story. It's not about us, and things don't always (often!) go the way we'd like. Finally, all the waiting helps us think differently about both the present and the future: valuing the present as a gift, cherishing the future as our ultimate hope.

Will that change the way you feel as you burn through forty-five minutes waiting for the doctor to call you in for your appointment? I don't know. It might, or it might not. But maybe it will give you the chance to view that time differently. **Let us aspire and pray for the virtue of waiting ... waiting in hope and faith!**

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 (6th December): Prayer and the History of the Church



In the lead up to Christmas, we would like to invite anyone interested to join the choir practice on Tuesday, 12th Dec, 7pm in the church.

Would you like to join an **Advent Discussion Group?** Come to the church on Tuesday evenings at 7pm or on Wednesday mornings in the chapel after the 9:15 Mass to share reflections on the coming Sunday's Gospel.

Interested in a more prayerful Advent this year? Copies of "Chosen"—a compilation of prayerful reflections on the daily readings during Advent—are available in the foyer for \$3 each. "Chosen" is the publication of the Diocese of Wollongong.

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.



***God's Word Daily Reflections 2018 — now available at the Piety Stall for \$10.**

Advent Activities

- *Join our Christmas liturgies on Wednesday, 6th Dec:
 - 10:30 at Lady of Grace Nursing Home
 - 1:00 at Carinya House
- *Join our Mass on Thursday, 7th Dec, 10:15 at Bupa Aged Care
- *Hamper Mass on 10th December at 10am, contact Sue (0432716577) to help to distribute the hampers!
- *Vinnies Christmas Appeal on next weekend (9/10 Dec)

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

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, Donard Doyle, 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1363.50

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1765 **Loose** = \$ 991.75

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 4691.75 (target = \$5577)

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

Your contributions amounted to \$12,104.95

Thank you for your generosity to this appeal.

The Waiting Room That is Advent

The waiting room of a hospital's intensive care is unlike any place in the world. And the people who wait there are bound together like no others anywhere.



Family members and friends can't do enough for each other. No one is proud, no one stands on ceremony or protocol. Petty disputes and hurts are nowhere to be found. The distinctions of race and class melt away. A person is a father or spouse first; white, black, Asian second. The garbage man loves his wife as much as the university professor loves his – and everyone understands. Each person pulls for everyone else. A family's good news gives joy and hope to everyone; the sadness and grief of a family's loss is felt by everyone.

In the intensive care waiting room, the world changes. Vanity and pretence vanish. The universe is focused on the doctor's next report.

In the intensive care waiting room, we can't help but face the fact that life is fragile and limited. In waiting word of some improvement in our loved one's condition, every moment of life becomes a gift.

The intensive care waiting room is a place of hoping. It is a place of anticipating, of expecting. It is a place of Advent. [Adapted from One Church from the Fence by Wes Seelinger.]

Life is a waiting room, a place confronting us with both the preciousness and precariousness of the time we are given and the inevitable, though still always difficult, changes that we must contend with in the course of that time. Our lives are an Advent, a time of anticipating, expecting, and hoping. Being an 'Advent' people is to understand the importance of now -- that now is the time to love our spouses and children, that now is the time for hugs and I-love-you's, that now is the time to make the kind of memories that will live on well after we have left this world for the next. [A Connections Sampler]

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!*

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

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

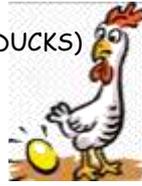
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and Dr Darren Calleia**

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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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		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
THIS WEEK	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Margaret Thornton	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Geoff & Jacinta Mifsud	Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle	Deb Rankin Jacqui Nisbet	Margaret Foley Gael Carpani
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Pat Waters Dianne Millington	Deb & Paul Copperfield	Marian Piper CareyAnne Moylan	Tereza Barisic
	JUN MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima Emelie Mifsud	Olivia Easton	Christian Santelmann Christian Maait	Tiago Gregory
	MUSICIANS	Lance	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, & Matt	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(5 Dec) Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay & Archie Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Kim Parlson
9/10 DEC	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Peter Firkins	Joseph Spina
	ACOLYTE	Vince Luca	Neil John	Phyllis 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	Tara & Sam Coddington	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
	FLOWERS	Dianne Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman