



**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



**1st Sunday of Lent**  
**18th February 2018**

**Genesis 9:8-15;**

**1 Peter 3:18-22;**

**Mark 1:12-15**

## **I had to live in the desert before I could understand the full value of grass in a green ditch** - ELLA MAILLART

*A husband was struggling to make ends meet at home on one salary. Then one day he had to confront his wife with a receipt for a \$ 250.00 dress she had bought. "How could you do this?" I was outside the store looking at the dress in the window, and then I found myself trying it on," she explained. "It was like Satan whispering in my ear, "You look fabulous in that dress. Buy it!" "Well," the husband replied, "You know how I deal with that kind of temptation. I say, "Get behind me Satan!" His wife replied, "I did that, but then he said, "It look fabulous from the back too!"*

As you think of desert, what comes to your mind? Emptiness, hot, sand, desolate, abandonment, loneliness, etc. But it is of great significance in the salvation of history. It is also a part of our experience in our emotions, behaviours, habits and relations to God and to one another.

The desert was the birth place of the people of God in the Old Testament. The Hebrew people as scattered scribes, after their liberation from Egyptian bondage, arrived in the Promised Land and became one nation under God. God made a covenant with them. Whenever their love and faithfulness to God grew cold, the prophets would suggest their return to the desert to rediscover their identity, their vocation and their mission to a way of reawakening their faith and strengthening their covenantal relationship with God. The symbol of the rainbow in the first reading stands for the covenantal relationship between God and the people of Israel.

In the gospel, we see that Jesus was driven to the desert where he encountered the Holy Spirit and Satan, wild beasts and holy angels as well. The desert became his school, where he carefully learned to discern the voice of God. The desert is the best educational institution where He teaches us to know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses, and our divine calling. Recently, a wife grieving over the unexpected demise of her husband shared with me how we take the blessings of life for granted without realising what counts in life. True enough, it is in loneliness, predicaments, terminal illness, or grave loss that we come to understand the meaning of life, and we are able to get our priorities straight.

Geographically, we are familiar with the deserts across the globe but there are some harsh deserts which are not marked on any map or even app. The deserts to which the people are driven away: psychological, sociological, cultural, political, religious and economic deserts. The wilderness can feel a lot like home: The single mum stretched so thin that she almost disappears, knows the desert of exhaustion and guilt. The adolescent convicts, numb to the brutality that surrounded them know the desert of violence and regret. The rejected child, watching silently from beyond the playground, knows the desert called Loneliness. The victims of wars in the loss of their beloved ones know the desert called anguish, agony and sadness. The affected people of the natural disasters find themselves in the desert of having nothing with a bleak future...The global economy downturn resulting in loss of jobs, impacting the lives and making the lives of many a night mare... the near future appears to be a desert. (Source duly acknowledged).

We know the truth about the deserts. But, do we know that there is something else true about the wilderness? It is also filled with 'angels', life. As one sails through the 'deserts', God sends 'angels' in various forms and helps them to get through the journey. He balances the life of those who are open to His ways! As we walk through our own personal 'deserts', we can also be an angel in the hands of God to help the afflicted around us in their struggles. What we need is just to believe and live!

Lent a time for such experience...Let the journey through the desert make us strong, free, and new!

**"The desert is the theatre of the human struggle of searching for God"** - Jan Majernik

**God's blessings,**  
**Fr. Vince**



*Thank you for everyone who supported the St Madeleine's Kenthurst Gala Dinner!*



Preparations for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for children who have received their First Communion and are in Year 5 or higher, will begin **soon**.

If you are interested in joining the program, you must attend one of the parent information sessions on **Tuesday, 20th February, at 4:30pm or 7:00pm**. Enrolment forms will be given at the end of the sessions.



See you at the first Women's Breakfast in 2018 on **Saturday, 24th February at 8:30-10:30** in the St Joseph Centre.

The topic will be: **"Living Laudato in Kenthurst"**

to be presented by our very own Environmental Advocate, Sue Martin.

For catering purposes, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the foyer.



The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **3rd March 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.



## 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 (21st February): Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism/Confirmation)**



Copies of the book, *Surrender*, are available in the foyer for \$8 each. This is a compilation of beautiful reflections and artwork designed to guide us in our journey through Lent.

This book is published by the Diocese of Wollongong.



\*Stations of the Cross—on Fridays of Lent at 7pm, immediately followed by faith-sharing sessions in the church, **beginning this Friday, 23rd February**.

\*Lenten Prayer Groups

- **Tuesdays** at 9am in the library for St Madeleine's Primary parents (20-Feb, 27-Feb, 6-Mar, 13-Mar)
- **Wednesdays** in the chapel after the 9:15 Mass
- **Thursdays** at 10am Mountainview Retirement Village

\*Annual Pilgrimage to Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa, on Saturday, 10th March. We will have a prayer session at 11am, and share a meal together afterwards. Transport is available. **[We are in need of a driver for the Community Bus on this day. If you are able to help, please let Fr Vincent know.]**

\*2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday, 20th March at 7pm

*Congratulations to Laura Geltch as she receives the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend!*

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$ 1276.50  
**2nd Collection** (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1869 **Loose** = \$ 778.95  
**Credit cards/Direct Debit** ave weekly = \$1935  
**TOTAL** = \$ 4582.95 (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 PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### **For the recently deceased**

Tony Virgona, Juanita Sworden, Maria La Spina, and Adam Bruce Wilson.

#### **For the dearly departed**

Shaju Xavier, Anthony & Maryanne D'Anastasi, Rosita Estacio, Ian Wilson, Doreen Byrne, Giorgio Vumbaca, Alan Brush, Patrick Joseph Bradley, Michele Vaccarella, Joseph Tallon, Aldo Tallon, Leslie Lovell, and Domenico Papandrea

#### **For healing of the sick**

Ivan Ceccato, Phil Sworden, Neil Rogers, Violet Hobbs, Dan Doyle, Karen Bligh, Elizabeth Graby, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Teresa Masiello, 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, and Christine Wilson.

**Special intentions for Hayley Gangemi**



## The Catholic Foundation Appeal: 24th/25th February 2018

The Catholic Foundation, Diocese of Parramatta was launched in Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains on 19 November 2017, when it officially replaced the Diocesan Works Fund (DWF) as the central charity for the good works of the Diocese of Parramatta.

The Catholic Foundation sustains the works of Faith, through the Holy Spirit Seminary and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; works of Hope through the Ephpheta Centre; and works of Charity through CatholicCare.

In support of The Catholic Foundation, our Parish will be holding a special collection on 24th/25th February. Appeal Envelopes will be provided at the Masses, and we invite all Parishioners to support the good works of the Diocese of Parramatta, by coming prepared and giving generously to The Catholic Foundation Appeal on 24th/25th February.

You can also choose to donate by visiting [www.yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/donations](http://www.yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/donations).

Please visit [www.yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/disclaimer](http://www.yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/disclaimer) for the Collection Statement, including information on how to update contact details, or mailing preferences.

**\*24th/25th March—Palm Sunday**

**\*29th March—Holy Thursday**

*Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm*

*Adoration in the Garden of Gethsemane until 12midnight*

**\*30th March—Good Friday**

*Stations of the Cross at 10am*

*The Lord's Passion at 3pm*

**\*31st March—Easter Vigil**

*Mass at 5:30pm, including the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*

**\*1st April—Easter Sunday**

*Masses at 8am and 10am; no Sunday evening Mass*

*>Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets in the foyer. We would love for you to participate in whatever way you can at our Holy Week celebrations.*



### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11:20,

or during 10am Masses

Weddings: By appointment

# Lenten Sharing

our parishioners share their experiences

This time of Lent last year whilst preparing for Easter, I was also preparing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands with our Bishop—a special journey which I had wanted to take for many years! The preparation shed a whole new light on the Bible stories and their place in my life. As we have just begun the Liturgical season of Lent, the readings bring back memories of my time walking in Jesus' footsteps with the Bishop, a man of true faith. Daily, Bishop Vincent shared his insights of the places we visited and brought these holy places to life.

Reliving the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus with an early morning Stations of the Cross like no other. To be actually walking the places where Jesus' last moments occurred was a little unnerving for me. At each station, a pilgrim read the events of the station, followed by a reading, followed by a reflection of what that particular station represents for us in the contemporary world today. Along with our guide Rami, adding his contextual knowledge and hidden symbolisms, it was a deeply enriching experience which added a depth to my understanding of Jesus' love for us. I'm sure that our parish Good Friday service will be a very moving event for me this year.

I visited Mount Nebo, the River Jordan, the Birthplace of Jesus, and the Church of the Primacy of St Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. All of these places were significant "beginning" places. The part of the journey that spoke to me the most was the time spent around the Sea of Galilee. This place felt particularly significant to me as it was the place where Jesus lived out his ministry as a teacher. This significance speaks to me as a teacher at Redfield Catholic College. I feel humbled to be in a position to shape the faith of young people and share my faith with them daily.

Whilst we can't all go on a pilgrimage overseas for several weeks at this time of year, we can participate in our parish's Lenten Reflection groups after the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come along and share our faith.  
~Jason Hatcher



### 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:** Angelo Roia

**Piety Stall:** Sandra Tabone

**Altar Linen Coordinator:** Pat Brush

**Parish Council Chair:** Patrick Tuttle

**Finance Committee Chair:** Michael Parslow

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(closed school holidays)  
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### Local Excavation Company

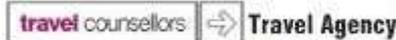
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	5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm	
<b>THIS WEEKEND</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Judith Gauci	Maria & Steve Fry	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Margaret & Michael Foley
	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	Sam Ursino
	<b>READERS</b>	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Gerry McArdle Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli CareyAnne Moylan	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	<b>EUCARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Nuri Wardrop Lorraine Ewer	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Lesley Gangemi Janelle Bawden
	<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>	Monica & Dom Bruggeling Annabelle Rogers	Jack & Patrick McNeil	Luke Masiello James Whittle	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Lisa & Craig	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, Matt & JMJ	Youth Group
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	(20 Feb) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	Kim Parslow
	<b>24/25 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Dianne Millington	Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Amira & John Campo
<b>ACOLYTE</b>		John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Neil John	Jhun Javier
<b>READERS</b>		Colleen Dunlop Maria Aiossa	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Amira Campo Justin Sebire	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
<b>EUCARISTIC MINISTERS</b>		Trish Keating Dianne Millington	Frances Sanders Tricia Spencer	Ann & Mark Lee	Gael Carpani Bev Hermens
<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>		Brosnan Leahy	Vincent Macdonald Patrick McNeil	Lorena Campo Finn Sebire	Clarissa Vumbaca James Barker
<b>MUSICIANS</b>		Lance	Joan & David	Bobby & Doug	Youth Group
<b>COUNTERS</b>		(27 Feb) Paul Vella and Belle Craig		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
<b>FLOWERS</b>		NO FLOWERS DURING LENT		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Catherine Diekman