



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



Nativity of St John the Baptist 24th June 2018

Isaiah 49:1-6
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80

THANKS TO GOD! GOOD NEWS!

God is always gracious to bless our community in every stage of its journey. I am glad to announce the good news of the approval of the DA for the new church and other office and function centres. With the DA now approved, we expect construction to commence next month, in July. The God we believe in invites us to come together and make our dream a reality.



Our bishop Vincent Long will be celebrating the **10 am Mass on 1st July** and bless the building site. And he will join us for a special morning tea. May we come together and make this day very special for our parish community!


**“The value of life is not in its duration, but in its donation.
You are not important because of how long you live,
you are important because of how effective you live”** Myles Munroe

We all love birthdays! We instinctively know that the birth of a person into this world is something that should be celebrated. We celebrate because we are happy that this person is in the world with us. Our knowing them has somehow made our life better.



However, when the Church celebrates a birthday in our liturgical calendar, whether it is the Nativity of Jesus Christ, Our Lady, or St. John the Baptist, we are reflecting on the meaning of human life at a much deeper level.

We are often blind to this deeper meaning. As a culture we are far from consistent when it comes to assigning value to human life. I always cringe when I hear someone joke that one of their children was “an accident,” or an “oops baby.” How easily we forget that “spouses share in the creative power and fatherhood of God... cooperating with the love of God the Creator” (CCC 2367; cf. TOB 21:7). As we pray in today’s responsorial psalm, it is God who

wonderfully forms our inmost being in our mother’s womb inspiring our praise (Ps 139:13). Every individual human life is a gift from God and is intended by God. Love is God’s motive for creation and it is this divine love that gives rise to the good and is well pleased with the good (TOB 13:3). God intimately knows us from the moment of our creation (Ps 139:1-4, 14-16, 23). Let us not pass over the fact that God’s improbable gift of John the Baptist also came through the conjugal union of Zachariah and Elizabeth knowing each other, “the act that... in union with the Creator, establishes a new human being in existence” (TOB 21:7).

Today, some people suggest that it is the prerogative of human beings to choose whether or not to permit this gift of human life to be born at all! How tragic it is! Every human person is a pure gift of God as all human life comes from the knowledge, will and design of God and that too with a purpose. Like John the Baptist, we too have been called from birth to be the heralds of the Good News of Jesus. Do we realize the purpose of our lives?

Those called to marriage are called to mirror the reciprocal love that exists between Christ the Bridegroom and his Bride the Church (Eph 5:21-33; TOB 90:1). The gift of self in marriage fully images Trinitarian love when the gift of children is received and continued to be nurtured through education and spiritual formation within the family. Those called to the consecrated life and celibacy for the Kingdom have a different though complementary mission. The celibate is called to become a sincere gift for others (Gaudium et Spes, 24; TOB 77:2] by renouncing the great good of married life (TOB 74:5) in order to embrace a charismatic orientation toward the eschatological state of direct union with God, of which marriage is a sign (TOB 73:4). For the celibate, the call to fatherhood and motherhood is exclusively a spiritual one (TOB 78:5). For the celibate and the married, however, the common mission is to image divine love as a gift of self that bears fruit. **(Father Christopher DiTomo) (Continued on next page)**

(Continuation)

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn to not judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen. The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no – it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed, he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most



graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but one season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are – and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life – can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall. Don't judge a life by one difficult season. Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

God's blessings, Fr. Vince



We are holding our Vinnies Winter Appeal this weekend. Envelopes are available for those who would like a receipt for their tax deductible donation.

COME AND SEE OUR PIETY STALL!

Beautiful items are available at our piety stall for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, even anniversaries and birthdays! The stall is open after the 8am and 10am Sunday Masses, and during Sacrament preparation sessions.

Congratulations to Oscar Levi Mouawad for his Baptism this weekend!

Sacrament of FIRST RECONCILIATION

The celebrations of First Reconciliation will be on Tuesday, 26th June at 5:30pm and 7:30pm.



Let us pray for the children and their families on their journey of faith.

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **7th July 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.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LITURGICAL MINISTER IN OUR PARISH: the Office for Worship will be conducting Liturgy Ministry Formation Courses beginning this August.

Compulsory Introductory Session— 16 Aug
Ministers of the Word (2 sessions):
23rd and 30th August

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (2 sessions): 13th and 20th September
Communion to the Sick and Dying:
27th September

Sessions are held Thursday, 7:00pm, Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown
You can get an enrolment form from the parish office.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Frank Wurtz, Rosaria Alfia "Sarina" Iannazzo, Edward Francis Rodrigues, and Jimmy Curtin

For the dearly departed

Tom Mulvihill, Frenk Piperata, Tato Piperata, Caterina Musso, Filomena Coreoglioni, Francesco Coreoglioni, Pietro Ceccato, deceased of the Ferraro family, Jed Manning, Angelina Cice, Joseph Culligan, James Mulvihill, the deceased of the Mulvihill and Culligan families, Bill Gray, and Peter Sebire



For healing of the sick

Ivan Ceccato, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, June, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Phil Sworden, Neil Rogers, Violet Hobbs, Karen Bligh, Elizabeth Graby, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, 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) = \$ 1547.30
2nd Collection (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1507.90
Loose = \$ 1172.10
Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2107
TOTAL = \$ 4787(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!

I would like to let everyone know that Peter has made steady progress and has been transferred to Mount Wilga for rehab. A big thank you to everyone for your wonderful meals, amazing flowers, cards and support, but most of all your prayers. We are very thankful to each and everyone of you.

Fondest love from Beverley & Peter Balnaves and Family.

Enrolling now for Kinder 2019

St Madeleine's Primary school is now taking applications for Kindergarten 2019. Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office or downloaded from the school's website: www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

The Peter's Pence Collection is traditionally taken up throughout Catholic parishes around the world either on 29 June, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, or on the Sunday closest to this Solemnity. This collection helps provide the Holy Father with funds for emergency assistance to those in need.

The proceeds enable Pope Francis to assist the most disadvantaged in emergency situations including victims of war, oppression, and disasters.

We will have our collection on the weekend of **14/15 July**.

Thank you for your generosity.

WARMTH FROM HOME

Donations of scarves, beanies, socks and gloves can be placed in the tub in the foyer. These will be distributed to warm the homeless this winter.

OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE WITH FR VINCENT—16 NOVEMBER 2018

If you are interested in joining, please contact Susan Clark
P—90998035; M—0405429988; E—susan@itravel-au.com

PILGRIMAGE TO JORDAN, ISRAEL AND EGYPT—NOVEMBER 2018

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus in the Land of the Prophets with Zion Tours, November 2018, with optional extension to Petra, Jordan. Dates 15th-27th November. Check out this affordable, all-expenses included, value-for-money tour at ziontours.net.in for highlights. For more information, contact Merle Fonseca +61405314058 (What's App.) merle.fonseca@gmail.com. Limited places available.

AT THE WELL: 29 JUNE

Young women are invited to an informal and intimate gathering to encourage dialogue on topics such faith, love, career and life. Guests include Sr Rosie Drum, Malia Lolesio and Joy Adan. Friday 29 June from 7pm at 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. \$5 entry. Tickets are limited and registrations required at parracatholic.org/the-well. Contact Qwayne, Local Engagement Leader, Catholic Youth Parramatta for more information on 02 8838 3481 or qwayne.guevara@parracatholic.org

LIFTED RETREAT 2018 "COMPLETE JOY": 6-8 JULY

Young adults of our diocese are invited to join us in this Year of Youth open new horizons in our hearts for spreading joy. Take some time away from the busyness of everyday life to be with the Source of all joy: Jesus! Get ready for a weekend of new friendships, great food, solid talks and times of quiet and prayer. For 18-35 year-olds, \$95 per person. Register at parracatholic.org/cyp-lifted-retreat

CATHOLIC MEN'S SEMINAR: 3 AUGUST

The 2018 'Faith in Marriage' Seminar address is entitled 'Marriage & Men in Contemporary Society' and will be given by Robert Falzon co-founder of menALIVE. All parishioners are warmly welcome to attend this free event on Friday 3 August at 7.30pm at the Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. Please RSVP to lmf@parracatholic.org or phone 02 8838 3460.

ACYMC 2018

Early-bird registration for the Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Convention hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops is now open at www.acymc.org.au. The event will host up to 500 adult delegates who are engaged in ministry with young people in parishes, schools, agencies and ministries of the Catholic Church. Rooty Hill RSL, September 21-23. Contact James Camden, Director, Catholic Youth Parramatta for more information (02) 8838 3428 or james.camden@parracatholic.org

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future. To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Find out more from the new website, now online: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

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

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

THE CHURCH. ALL OF IT.

Issues of The Catholic Weekly are available in the foyer for \$2 each.

>Concrete bed:

Sleeping out for homelessness

>Targeting Confession:

Governments move against

confessional seal

>Big, little university:

Catholic Institute

>A man of honour:

Jerome Lejeune

We cannot change our character, it is true, as easily as we change our clothes. It is the work of a lifetime. It is achieved with the grace of God and constant effort.

-St Madeleine Sophie

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator: Amira Campo

Music Coordinators:

CareyAnne Moylan and Alexandra Mifsud

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: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Michael Parslow

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for details.

	5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm	
THIS WEEKEND	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Amira & John Campo	Helen Ross
	ACOLYTE	Vince Luca			Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Maria Aiossa	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Amira Campo Careyanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Justin Sebire
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Dianne Millington	Frances Sanders Margaret Steele	Ann & Mark Lee	Gael Carpani
	JUN MINISTERS	Brosnan Leahy	Vincent Macdonald		Clarissa Vumbaca James Barker
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(26 June) Paul Vella and Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
	FLOWERS	Peter Tallaridi, arr'd by Rita Vumbaca		ALTAR LINEN	Peg Grogan
30 JUNE/1 JULY	WELCOMERS	John Cice	Margaret Thornton	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Lesley & Rick Gangemi
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Geoff and Jacinta Mifsud	Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Margaret Foley Gael Carpani
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Pat Waters Dianne Millington	Eileen Sherlock Michael Parslow	Marian Piper CareyAnne Moylan	Tereza Barisic
	JUN MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima Emilie Mifsud	Olivia Easton	Christian Maait	Tiago Gregory Elizabeth Cauchi
	MUSICIANS	Alexandra	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, & Matt	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(3 July) Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay & Archie Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	FLOWERS	Teresa Capaldi, arr'd by Mari & Maureen		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper