



St Madeleine

Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



16th December 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

**“Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day”**

Henri Nouwen

There is a story told of two buckets which were kept at a well. Of the two, one was always sad and gloomy, while the other was always happy and joyful. The happy one said to the sad one - “What’s the matter with you? I see that you are always unhappy, sad and gloomy!” The sad one said - “Oh! It is my life. When I think of it I feel very bad and become so sad.” “What do you think of your life?” asked the first. The second replied - “Oh! When I look at my life – it is ever empty. See, however many times I come out of the well full, I always go to it empty and this emptiness makes me very sad and gloomy.” “Oh!” said the first, “but I do not look at my life that way.” “How do you look at your life then?” inquired the second. The first replied - “Oh! I find my life always full. See, however many times I go into the well empty, I always come out full, and this fullness fills me with happiness & joy.”

We notice that the life of both the buckets is essentially the same, but their looking at it is different. And this makes one ever sad and mad, while the other is always happy and full of joy. This Third Sunday of Advent is also called "Gaudete" Sunday or "Rejoice" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice!" Joy is the essence of all the three readings of this Sunday. St Paul invites every one of us to "rejoice in the Lord always". When everything goes well, there is all the reason for one to be happy and joyful, but when there is a deep-seated sadness over an unfixable situation, joy feels elusive. Yet, St. Paul writes in Philippians 4:4 to rejoice always. He is writing these words in prison, and to further the matter, he later speaks of himself in the second letter to the Corinthians as being 'sorrowful yet rejoicing'. Certainly he knows something that we apparently don't. Many of us are weighed down by grim struggles such as financial constraints, illness or loss of a beloved one or behavioural problems of the children etc. How is it possible to have joy in these scenarios? The readings today take us through a pathway that enables us to move forward with peace and joy. Pam Kanaly, Co-founder of Arise Ministries shares a few thoughts on the second reading of today whose thoughts I would like to paraphrase here below.

Our joy is not based on mere emotions. For example, losing a few kilos of weight or being relieved of a long term worry. Our joy should not be determined by outside stimuli or by the happenings around us. It does not depend on how comfortable you are, what house you live in, what car you drive, what kind of food and drink you eat and so on. Perhaps, you lost your job, your health has taken a downturn or your former husband did not pay child support. "If only circumstances were different," we say. "Then I'd find joy." Again, this isn't true joy. Instead it's a kind of joy based on secular realities that are unpredictable, leaving one constantly vulnerable to outside elements".

The joy that Paul is talking about is one of spiritual. It has nothing to do with our emotions or circumstances. It is not a joy based on temporal and material things. It is a joy based solely on the Lord. It is a reality that surpasses our understanding. It's a peace that abides in the heart that knows no matter what, all is well because Jesus is in the midst of its outcome. It's not driven or tossed by worldly issues but remains a constant inside stabilizer above emotions or circumstances.

The question is how we cultivate spiritual joy. It is in founding our life on Jesus, His teachings and 'our love in action' for those who find themselves in the human desert all around us.

So, we get to pick joy that would govern our day today life: Emotional joy? Circumstantial joy? Or spiritual joy?

God's blessings

Fr. Vince



Update

- ◇ You will be able to see the length of the west wall of the church, as well as the beginnings of the function centre. We are so grateful for the progress of construction. Let us continue our prayers.
- ◇ If you have any questions about the construction, please feel free to ring Angelo Roia on 98991948, or email the construction committee: stmdsconstruction@gmail.com



This weekend, 15/16th December, we are conducting the **Vinnies Christmas Appeal** in our parish. If you would like to donate by credit card or if you would like to get a receipt for your donation, please use one of the appeal envelopes. Please put all other cash donations in the Poor Box in the foyer. Thank you for your generous hearts!



Thank you for participating in our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. This year the St Mad's community provided hampers to Hawkesbury's Helping Hands, the House of Welcome and Jesuit Refugee Service in Parramatta, and a few late hampers went to the Baabayn Aboriginal corporation at Emerton. Many needy families will be assisted this Christmas.

BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **5th January at 4:30-5:30pm** at the St Joseph Centre. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260. Thank you.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1381.35
2nd Collection (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1499
Loose = \$ 916.40
Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2107
TOTAL = \$ 4522.40 (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!**

CHRISTMAS CAKE & CRAFT SALE
FUNDRAISING FOR THE NEW CHURCH

Thank you for participating in this weekend's fundraising sale!
 All proceeds will go to the new church fund!



We had a wonderful time with our retired parishioners on 7th December.

The Healing Mass with the Year 3 children was very special. And the luncheon that followed was glorious. There was a great sense of community!

Thank you to Jenny Puleo, Rick & Lesley Gangemi, Pat Waters, and Pat Brush for organising. And thanks to all who helped!



Let us offer our prayers for Carmelo Joseph Attard as he receives the sacrament of Baptism this weekend!

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Alberto Juanengo

For the dearly departed

Aidan Bradley, Aldo Joseph Tallon, Rosa Trinsledi, Paul Spina, Giuseppe Vumbaca, Salvatore Murdocca, Maria Rosa Murdocca, Raffaele Murdocca, Ross Arico, Norman & Chahade Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahade Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Mary Merhi, Eddy Takchi, Setna & Jim Mulvihill and the deceased of the Mulvihill family, Helena & Joseph Culligan and the deceased of the Culligan family

For healing of the sick

4-mo old Florence Smith, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Trish Takahashi, Samuel Abella, Doris Mendoza Quiroz, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, June, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, 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, Giuseppe Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Christy Sherlock, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel



Getting Ready for Christmas

You are invited to our Parish Penitential Service
(2nd Rite of Reconciliation)
on **Tuesday, 18th December at 7pm.**
Let us come together to prepare
our hearts for the Lord's coming!



IN OUR PIETY STALL!

- *Majellan Christmas cards—\$7 per pack
- *Calendars—\$9 each
- *Saviour – Advent reflection books—\$4 each



*God's Word
2019
Bible Diary
\$12 each



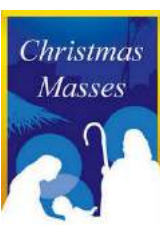
The Lights of Christmas Bus Trip



to St Marys Cathedral to see the choir at 7.30pm and afterwards the lights on St Marys Cathedral is on Wednesday 19th December. We are meeting at the Australian Brewery on Annangrove Rd at 6.15pm I have booked tables from 5pm if anyone would like to eat there before we leave Price \$20 per Adult and \$15 per child. I still have seats available on the buses. Please mark your envelope Bus trip your name and money in an envelope and place in the piety stall box provided in the church foyer by **16/12/18.** For more information contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400

COME JOIN THE CHOIR THIS CHRISTMAS!

You are invited to these upcoming rehearsals in the church
21st Dec, Friday at **6.30pm** for the Midnight Mass and **7:30pm** for the Family Mass
***24th Dec**, Monday, **10am** in the school hall for the Family Mass



24th Dec, Mon: Family Mass (in the hall) 5:30 carols; 6pm Mass
24th Dec: Midnight Mass 11:30 carols, Mass at 12mn
25th Dec, Tues; 8am & 10am; (no 5:30pm Mass)

If your child would like to participate in the Family Mass on Christmas Eve, please let them be at the school hall at 5pm dressed as angels or shepherds.



OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

WANTED: DONATIONS OF FURNITURE

Pymont Cares is collecting items to furnish public housing for rehabilitated members of their community — released prisoners, former drug-dependents, etc. Your donations will give these brothers and sisters of ours an opportunity for a fresh start, a place to call home, and a space where their family can feel welcome. They could use any of the following items that are in good condition and working order— washing machines, microwaves, refrigerators, chests of drawers, small dining tables, chairs, couches. Please contact Deb Rankin—0409 158 970—to organise pickup from your place.

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE: THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and join parishioners in daily Mass, Adoration, prayer, catechesis and fellowship. To register for all or part of the pilgrimage, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. For updates and to follow the journey see www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

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.

- ◇ WYD Pilgrims prepare to leave
- ◇ Down but not out: Horsley Park parish stays strong
- ◇ Armenian art for cathedral
- ◇ Faith in the desert
- ◇ Movie review: *New Life*
- ◇ Vatican, China agreement worry

And what is God?
Supreme happiness.
That is all.

-St Madeleine Sophie

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator: Amira Campo

Music Coordinator: 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/Suzanne Kingston-Hunt

Adult Faith Formation: Careyanne Moylan

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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THIS WEEKEND

	5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
WELCOMERS	Judith Gauci	Maria & Steve Fry	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina
ACOLYTE	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Gerry McArdle Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	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	Patrick McNeil	Luke Masiello	Josh Fogarty Sara Saway
MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, Doug, and JMJ	Youth Group
COUNTERS	(18 Dec) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY
FLOWERS	Denis Secco; arr'd by Rita Vumbaca		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper

22/23 DEC

WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington & Joe Spina	Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Amira & John Campo	Helen Ross
ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Neil John	Jhun Javier
READERS	Colleen Dunlop Mary Sammut	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Amira Campo Careyanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Trish Keating Dianne Millington	Frances Sanders Margaret Steele	Ann & Mark Lee	Gael Carpani Bev Hermens
JUN MINISTERS	Brosnan Leahy	Patrick McNeil	Lorena Campo	Clarissa Vumbaca James Barker
MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
COUNTERS	(27 Dec) Paul Vella and Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
FLOWERS	Denis Secco, arr'd by Mari & Maureen		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper