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www.stmadeleine.org.au
Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



23rd December 2018
4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44

“Visitation of God’s presence is a by-product of worship. However, we don’t worship in order to gain His presence. He is worthy to be worshipped whether or not He chooses to show up” - John Wimber



On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we reflect on Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth in her pregnant state. Recently, we visited that Biblical “hill country” called Ein Karem, the village of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Ein Karem is 90 kilometres away from Nazareth and by foot, it took a week to travel. I could see how difficult the journey would have been for the pregnant Mary at a time when the road was rough and no easy transportation was viable. Mary embodies the core of Christianity here at its best- caring, committed to the well-being of others. The visitation was a journey of service, a visit to her cousin who needed help. Mary rightly understood the longing of Elizabeth at that point of her life.

We are just one day away from the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Though it is a time of joy and celebration, this can be a time of loneliness, or intense sorrow for some people. As we get ready to celebrate this historical event of God becoming Man, we also welcome and reach out to neighbourhoods, especially those who are suffering the most during these days.

Our community has reflected the spirit of Mary by undertaking the project to aid 20 poor families in Sri Lanka (all your donations have already reached the families in Sri Lanka and they have extended their Christmas wishes and prayers and deep sentiments of gratitude to us), by participating in the Christmas Hamper appeal (for Hawkesbury’s Helping Hands, the Home of Welcome and Jesuit Refugee Service in Parramatta and Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation in Emerton) and generously donating to the Vinnies appeal. These are just a few of the numerous ways of incarnating the spirit of Mother Mary to the people in need and especially the oft-forgotten brethren. The visitation of our Mother Mary is a gentle reminder that we should keep this spirit of caring, sharing and persevering until the end of time.

Besides service, “Mary and Elizabeth had something else to share – their faith. The prayers they said have been said ever since. The stage was small but the audience has been millions ever since. They were not shy about their faith in their God. In times like ours, we need to externalize our faith – to go to Church, send a card with a Christmas greeting, not just a season’s wish – not to parade, but to make present our faith in concrete actions both religious and corporal. We need to find God again, and let ourselves be open to him in the deepest areas of life, just like the husbands of these women, Joseph and Zechariah, as well as their wives, were open to God” (Donal Neary S.J.)

The country doctor Brunoy had just said goodbye to his colleagues who had confirmed that Jean, the doctor’s only son, would die in a few hours from diphtheria. The anti-toxin injections had been too late. As he now sat with his wife by the boy’s bedside awaiting the child’s death, the doorbell rang. The doctor shouted to his secretary, “I don’t want to see anyone.” But the visitor would not go away. It was the farmer Rivaz who had walked 10 kilometres from Roseland. His son was sick. “I’ll come tomorrow” the doctor told him. “But if you don’t come now, he won’t make it through the night,” the farmer insisted. They began a discussion. “You can cure my son.” “But mine’s lost, he’s beyond all cure.” “But mine isn’t.” “Well, I’ll come tomorrow morning.” “Then it will be too late.” “Let me close the eyes of my dying child.” “But if you cannot help him any longer.” “As long as my son is alive, I’ll remain with him.” “All right, then both the children will die.” The doctor then asked for the symptom’s of the boy’s sickness and they were the same as his son’s had been. But it was still not too late to save him. So the doctor decided to go with the farmer. (Ludolf Ulrich in ‘1000 Stories You Can Use’)



Looking forward to celebrate Christmas with you!

God’s blessings, Fr. Vince

Let us offer our prayers for
Eleanor Peta McLaughlin
as he receives the sacrament of Baptism
this weekend!



A big thank you to everyone who joined our parish bus trip to the city to see the Lights of Christmas. The 81 people who came had a wonderful time despite the thunder and pouring rain!
Thanks to Sandra Tabone for organising the trip!

LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING FROM OUR PIETY STALL!

- *Majellan Christmas cards—\$7 per pack
- *Calendars—\$9 each

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



And beautiful religious gift items!

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!



- ◇ More walls continue to rise and the construction team is targeting to make significant progress over the school holidays.
- ◇ If you have any questions about the construction, please feel free to ring Angelo Roia on 98991948, or email the construction committee: stmadsconstruction@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting last weekend's

CHRISTMAS CAKE & CRAFT SALE

With the parishioners' contributions of baked goods, sweets, craft, and pre-loved Christmas decorations, and with other parishioners buying the items, we were able to generate sales amounting to **\$833.75!**

FUNDRAISING FOR THE NEW CHURCH

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Alberto Juanengo

For the dearly departed

Feliciana Sabellano, Pietro Ceccato, Jed Manning, the Ferraro family, Antonio Ceroli, AnnaMaria "Mary" Spina, 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

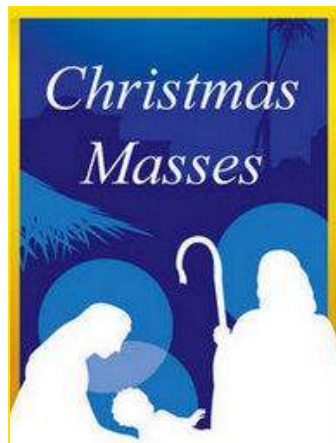
4-mo old Florence Smith, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Trish Takahashi, Samuel Abella, Doris Mendoza Quiroz, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, June, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, 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



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

SEE YOU AT OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES!



**24th December, Monday
Family Mass (in the hall)
5:30 carols, 6pm Mass*

**24th December Midnight Mass
11:30pm carols, Mass at 12mn*

**25th Dec, Tues; 8am & 10am
(no 5:30pm Mass)*

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

- > No 9:15 weekday Masses on 26th-28th December
- > Regular Masses on the weekend (29th/30th December)
- > Mass on Tuesday, 1st January, at 9am to celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of God
- > Daily Masses (9:15) resume on Wednesday, 2nd January.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

WANTED: DONATIONS OF FURNITURE

Pyrmont Cares is collecting items to furnish public housing for rehabilitated members of their community and Sydney CBD — 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.

CHRISTMAS 2018 MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: www.parracatholic.org

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING THE COMPASSIONATE FACE OF CHRIST TO HOMELESS YOUNG MOTHERS AND CHILDREN IN CRISIS

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, CatholicCare and Houses to Homes thank you for supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your kind-hearted generosity, Houses to Homes can provide more homeless mothers with the shelter, support, independent living and parenting skills programs they desperately need.

Please pray for the wellbeing of all mothers and children in Houses to Homes' care. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Submissions to Plenary Council 2020 close on **Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019**. YOUR voice matters! Make a personal submission now or join a small group. Our question is for everyone: "What you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" To make a submission or to find out more visit: <https://parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/>

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.

- ◇ The paradoxes of Christmas
- ◇ Growing good men
- ◇ The shock of the new
- ◇ Students shine in HSC
- ◇ Movie review: *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*
- ◇ 13 desserts for Advent

**Mary carried Jesus to meet John.
Who carries Jesus to you?
To whom do you bear Jesus?**

**The Lord speaks a promise of fulfilment to us each day.
What do you see the Lord bringing to fulfilment in your life?**

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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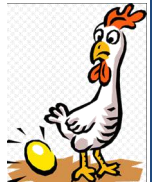
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	5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm	
THIS WEEKEND	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington & Joe Spina	Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Amira & John Campo	Helen Ross
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Neil John	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Mary Sammut	Nigel Saunders 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		Patrick McNeil	Lorena Campo	Clarissa Vumbaca James Barker
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	(27 Dec) Belle Craig and Sandra Tabone		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	FLOWERS	Denis Secco, arr'd by Mari & Maureen		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper
29/30 DEC	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Rosa Carlino	Teresa Capaldi John & Maureen Burford	Michelle & John Romeo
	ACOLYTE	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Phillys Hannah	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Eileen Sherlock Gerry McArdle	AnnMarie Duncan Marietta Nesci	Simmy Cesamolo Jenny Naglic
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Kathy White Eileen Sherlock	Sandra Tabone Sue Martin	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	JUN MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling		James Whittle	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, & Matt	Youth Group
	COUNTERS			CHILDREN'S LITURGY	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	FLOWERS	Denis Secco, arr'd by Mari & Maureen		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Sanders