



**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



**9th December 2018**  
2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9  
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11  
Luke 3:1-6

## “Organise, don't agonise.”

— Nancy Pelosi

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thanks to every one of you for your valuable prayers during our pilgrimage in the Holy Land, Rome and Vatican City. It was a fabulous and spiritually enriching experience for every one of the pilgrim group. Surely some of you might be interested to hear our experiences. Instead of stealing the time during the Mass, I'm thinking of an evening where the pilgrim group and I would be able to share the experiences with the corresponding photos over a light supper. I hope you welcome this idea and I will let you know of the date as soon as possible.

There are people who are of the view that the life of Jesus was no more than a myth or a piece of fiction without any basis in history. My walk in the land that Jesus walked in fact reinforced my faith in the historical Jesus and I felt strong that my faith in Jesus is not a fake or fabrication. To be realistic, not all things can be reasoned out or comprehended in life. Not all truths can be experimented in a scientific laboratory. There are truths that can be experienced deep within oneself and in interdependent relationships. In view of countering the sceptical attitudes of many in that period and even today, Luke situates Jesus in the historical set-up of his time. He says that Jesus was born in a certain place, at a certain time, a real human being. To emphasise this, he names the important people of his time: Tiberias Caesar the emperor, Pontius Pilate the governor of Judea, other political leaders and finally the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. Surely one would have expected God to seek the help of someone among these mighty of the earth to spread his Good News of salvation, but nothing of the sort. On the contrary, the word of the Lord came to a very simple man, a hermit in the desert, a man without any political power or religious authority. It is interesting that John was in the wilderness, a quiet place, plenty of time for reflection. He possessed none of the world's goods to fill up his life so he was really empty to receive the word of God.



Is there not a strong parallel in the life of Nelson Mandela? For many years he was condemned to prison in South Africa, often in solitary confinement. He was very badly treated by his white prison guards. Who would have blamed him, after all the harsh treatment and humiliation he received, if he had become a bitter man, ready to seek revenge when released? Like John he was in the wilderness, for him that of prison, none of the world's material goods to fill up his life, plenty of time for reflection. Obviously the word of God came to him, too. This man came out of prison and became a tremendous symbol of reconciliation and forgiveness, trying to overcome all the evil of the apartheid system in South Africa and bringing whites, blacks and coloured peoples together. And he remained so till his death, two years ago yesterday.



God's word still comes to the humble people who renew others by acts of kindness, to people who lower the mountains of selfishness by their selfless serving of others especially the poor, to those who fill up the valleys of hatred and injustice by their work for justice and peace and to those who commit themselves to try and safeguard the environment, the ozone layer, the ecological system of the earth so as to hand on a better world to those coming after them. We may not think they are important people by the world's standards, but by God's standards they are and he will use us also if we allow him.

We are entrusted with the same vocation as John the Baptist—to prepare the way for Jesus and His kingdom to emerge in today's context. The Word of God came to John in the wilderness and for Nelson Mandela in the silence of his prison cell. The Word of God comes to us in our hectic and busy lives, in our brokenness and wounds, in our loss and grief, in our entanglement with the materialist and hedonistic outlooks and attitudes and in the midst of violence, wars etc. Perhaps, we need to take some time off to listen to his whispers and act on them. Jesus became the centre of history and nothing or no one can change that reality. He is the God of today, and will be the God of tomorrow too. Looking in this way at the coming of God we again can become the people of hope. (Edited Fr. Jim Kirstein, SMA)

**God's blessings**

**Fr. Vince**



TRULY AMAZING TO WATCH A  
DREAM TURN INTO REALITY

- ◇ 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](mailto:stmadsconstruction@gmail.com)

### BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

#### for Homeless Young Mothers in our Diocese

CatholicCare's Houses to Homes is one of the vital services supported by our Diocese through Parramatta Catholic Foundation. Houses to Homes gives hope, help, compassion, care and shelter to disadvantaged, homeless young mums who have nowhere and nobody else to turn to. Every year, 30 to 50 mothers and mothers-to-be rely on Houses to Homes for safe shelter, food and the skills to build a better life.

This Christmas, we're counting on your faith, hope and charity to support homeless mothers and children in crisis. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will support the shelter, independent living and parenting skills programs that homeless mums desperately need.

Please give with a generous heart via the envelopes in the foyer or donate online at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

Thank you for sharing God's unconditional love this Christmas. **Last weekend, your contributions amounted to \$4700 (parish quota = \$9608).**

*Let us offer our prayers for Frank Anthony Vumbaca as he receives the sacrament of Baptism this weekend!*

### 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) = \$ 1357.70

**2nd Collection** (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1365  
**Loose** = \$ 1079.70

**Credit cards/Direct Debit** ave weekly = \$2107  
**TOTAL** = \$ 4551.70 (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!**

There will be a Communion Service on Friday, 14th Dec. There will be NO 9:15 MASS that day as Fr Vince will be at Villawood Detention Ctr.



**This will be held next weekend, 15/16 December.**

How can you get involved?

\*Please take a box or tray from the foyer for your **BAKED GOODS**

\*Donate your **CHRISTMAS CRAFT**

\*Bring your **WHITE ELEPHANT CHRISTMAS DÉCOR** — donate Christmas decorations that you no longer use  
Please bring your donations on the 15th of December!

All proceeds will go to the new church fund!



All are invited to listen in and participate:  
**WEDNESDAYS, 7PM at the ST JOSEPH CENTRE**  
**TALK 3: Jesus—His Life and Ministry**



Next weekend, 15/16th December, we will be 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!

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### For the recently deceased

Alberto Juanengo

#### For the dearly departed

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

## IN OUR PIETY STALL!

\*Majellan Christmas cards—\$7 per pack

\*Calendars—\$9 each

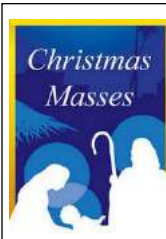
\*Saviour – Advent reflection books—\$4 each



You are welcome to join our Advent discussion groups: Wednesdays in the chapel after the 9:15 Mass OR Thursdays, at Mountainview Retirement Village at 10am

Have you got a bit of time to share? Come to our Christmas Masses at our nearby nursing homes:  
**Tuesday, 11th Dec, 10:15am**  
 —Arcare on Glenhaven Rd  
**Thursday, 13th Dec, 10:15am**  
 —BUPA Dural

Invitation to prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming:  
 Parish Penitential Service (2nd Rite of Reconciliation) on Tuesday, 18th December at 7pm



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)

## COME JOIN THE CHOIR THIS CHRISTMAS!

You are invited to these upcoming rehearsals in the church  
**14th Dec, Friday at 7pm**

**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



### 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 2018  
 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 bus. 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 **9/12/18**. For more information contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400

We are thinking of organising another playgroup for **grandparents and parents** of pre-school kids. If you are interested in exploring this, please put your name and contact details on the sheet in the foyer and we will get in touch with you.

## OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

**CONCERT AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA: 17 DECEMBER**  
 Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Concert. Tickets via [www.brandenburg.com.au](http://www.brandenburg.com.au) – more details at: [stpatscathedral.com.au](http://stpatscathedral.com.au)

### 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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org). For updates and to follow the journey see [www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage](http://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.

- ◇ Second Newman miracle
- ◇ Red is for suffering: Focus on religious freedom
- ◇ Mean streets: A day in the life of the Matt Talbot Hostel
- ◇ Horsley Park Church lights up for Christmas
- ◇ Movie review: *Creed II*
- ◇ Croatian Youth absorb Theology of the Body

How could one have peace which is the fruit of love of Jesus in the soul, as long as one is filled with self and has so little love for God, crucified and annihilated!

–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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<b>THIS WEEKEND</b>		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Peter Firkins	Joseph Spina
	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Vince Luca	Neil John	Phillys Hannah	Joe Touma
	<b>READERS</b>	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Dan Doyle Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Simmy Cesamolo
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Colleen Dunlop Anne Kyngdon	Tricia Spencer Kathy White	Sandra Tabone Roslyn Earl	Selina Calleia Jason Hatcher
	<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang Kerstin Grima	Thomas Barker
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Alexandra, Ari & Michael	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	(11 Dec) Sandra Tabone & Michelle Romeo		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	Kim Parlson
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Dianne Bennett		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Vicky Hooper	

<b>15/16 DEC</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Judith Gauci	Maria & Steve Fry	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina
	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	Sam Ursino
	<b>READERS</b>	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC 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	Patrick McNeil	Luke Masiello	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Bobby, Matt, and JMJ	Youth Group
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	(18 Dec) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Denis Secco; arr'd by Rita Vumbaca		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Marian Piper