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Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am–4pm



12th April 2020

Easter Sunday

“The story of Easter is the story of God’s wonderful window of divine surprise”

– Carl Knudsen

With the parish team I wish everyone of you a Happy Easter! Easter is the celebration of the rising of Jesus from the dead. Easter brings some new energy into our being and it makes us all new. Easter is always a beginning of a whole new way of looking at life and we, as Christians, look upon life with the eyes of the Risen Christ.

I read once of a little girl whose home was near a cemetery, and in order to go to the store, she had to follow a path that led through the cemetery. But this little girl never seemed to have any sense of fear, even when she returned through the cemetery at dusk. Someone said to her, "Aren't you afraid to go through the cemetery?" "Oh, no," she replied, "I'm not afraid, for my home is just beyond." Our home is just beyond the cemetery. This little girl is able to look at life with the eyes of the risen Christ.

I got a message through WhatsApp which reads, “ We fell asleep in one world, and woke up in another: suddenly Disney is out of magic, Paris is no longer romantic, New York doesn’t stand up anymore, the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress, and the big cathedrals, temples and Mecca are empty. Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons and not visiting parents and friends physically becomes an act of love. Suddenly you realise that power, beauty, money are worthless, and can’t get you the oxygen you are fighting for... The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages. I think it is sending a message: The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine. When you come back, remember that you are my guests. Not my masters”. This anonymous person looks at the people places and the environment in the context of the Corona Pandemic. The way we relate to nature is challenged. But still, we are living in a wonderful world!



Even in the colossal loss of lives across the globe, we witness the courage, determination and the self-sacrificial love of the medical doctors, nurses and caregivers, and everyone else who put themselves on the line in the service of the people. They work day and night in view of flattening the curve of the infection spread. We see the presence of the Risen Christ in them and they are truly the Easter People.

Christ is truly present in those who are self- isolated and those who are reaching out to them and to the vulnerable in general. An ordinary Hindu man back home interpreted the fact of the closure of the churches, temples and mosques as God has left these holy grounds and He is busy in the hospitals and medical centres attending to the victims of the pandemic and in all the meetings and conferences directed towards protecting the people. The risen Christ is busy looking after us. Yes, there are various ways of realising the presence of Jesus in our midst. Even in the midst of pain and suffering, we can have a glimpse of hope and sing God’s praises. The reason is that we are both Good Friday and Easter people.

Patt Barnes came upon an old lady selling flowers on a busy city street. Her face was old and wrinkled, but radiant with an Easter smile. Patt took a flower, paid her, and said, "How happy you are this morning!" The flower lady replied, "Why not? Everything is beautiful." Patt was startled by her reply, because she was dressed so shabbily and looked so frail. Patt said: "You surely wear your troubles well! Again, her reply startled Patt: "When Jesus died Good Friday," she said, "that was the worst of days. Then, 3 days later--Easter! So, when troubles come my way, I simply wait three days. Then and everything gets all right again."

(Fr. Mark Link)



Easter does not promise us a problem free and worry-free life... But it indeed promises us that in our life journey, the risen Jesus is walking with us. And we must remember that: that nowhere in the world can we say of God that He is short of love for us.

With that sheer faith and hope, let us continue to remain as Easter People even in the midst of Covid19!

The one who overcame the death, will surely “roll away the stone” (the virus) from the face of the earth.

Let Alleluia be our Song (St. Augustine). Stay home; stay safe and stay well and happy!

United with you in prayers always, Fr. Vince

First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43)

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24)

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)



Second Reading (Colossians 3:1-4)

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel (John 20:1-9)

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Social Justice @ St Mads

On Good Friday we remember the crucifixion of Jesus together with two criminals. Today the death penalty is still used in many countries for the punishment of crimes. On 11 May 2018, Pope Francis approved a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church concerning the death penalty. The Church now teaches that the death penalty is unacceptable and should be abolished.

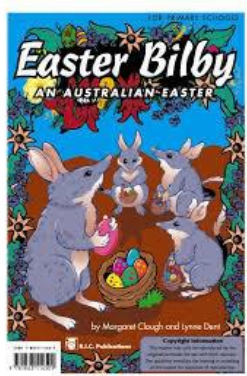
Slave free chocolates www.slavefreechocolate.org/ - where has the chocolate from your eggs this Easter been sourced?? Most of the world's chocolate comes from West Africa. Côte d'Ivoire, only 34 percent of children on cocoa farms attended school. For many years the Harkin Engel protocol has tried to break the child labour cycle with little luck. The more we can be responsible consumers the better the lives of all.

Save the Bilby this Easter, can we adopt the Easter Bilby and drop the Easter Bunny? Bilby's need our help. The greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), also known as the rabbit-eared bandicoot, once occupied over 80 percent of the continent.

<https://savethebilbyfund.com/>

Happy Easter!

~Sue Martin



**We will continue to
live stream Masses
this week on**

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>

Please join us on:

**Tuesday to Friday
9:15 am and 7 pm**

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm.

Sunday 10 am

*A person who is long nourished on prayer and
union with God has great resources,
especially if there is a loving heart.
-St Madeleine Sophie*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 25

2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$ 410

Many thanks to the parishioners who have contacted the office to change their giving method from envelopes to credit card, and those who have dropped in their giving envelopes. This is especially helpful now to keep our church going.

If you would like to make contributions

- ♦ **by direct deposit**, please deposit to:
BSB: 067950
Account No: 0000388
Account Name: Kenthurst Catholic Church
Reference: your envelope number (e.g. Env 120)
OR your name + collection
(e.g. E Smith collection)
- ♦ **by credit card**, click on this link:
<https://www.parracatholic.org/easter-offerings/>
- ♦ And of course, we still welcome your donations by envelopes. Please feel free to drop your envelopes in the locked box outside the office. We will check it regularly.
- ♦ If you have Project Compassion boxes to donate, Visit caritas.org.au for step-by-step instructions on making payments online, sending cheques, banking your cash or making donations over the phone.

Please feel free to ring the office (96542260)
on Tuesdays to Fridays (9am—4pm)
for assistance.

Thank you for your generosity!

Linking You to Our Community of Faith

During this time of self-isolation, I encourage you to visit these websites to remind you that you are never alone. Our Lord and Saviour is always with you, and a wide world outside your home prays with you.

For live-streamed or recorded Masses:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews/featured>

<http://www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au/video-streaming.php>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EWTN>

<https://dailytvmass.com/>

For prayer guides and reflections:

<https://www.pray.com.au/>

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>

<https://mycatholic.life/daily-reflections/>

ST MADELEINE'S ENROLLING NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2021

St Madeleine's Primary School is taking applications for Kindergarten 2021.

Enrolment forms can be accessed from the school website

<https://www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au/>

or can be collected from the school office.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

John Mifsud, Luisito Ponciano, Jeremy Vajda, Nanette D'arcy

For the dearly departed

Daniel Doyle, John Henry Doyle, Mary Spina, Eriberto Adan, Teodora Canseco-Pardo, Anthony Martin Pintado, Adele Conte Ceccato, and Michele Vaccarella

For healing of the sick

Selina Calleia, Joe Fuda, India, Vince Luca, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Sheila Cañabano, Candida Irugalbandra, Florence Smith, Gregory Borg, Maria Peach, Paul Byrne, Andy, Patrick Breen, Jacqueline Kelly, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Samuel Abella, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, 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, Giuseppe Grasso, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Faye Willing, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

***If you would like someone to be included among these requests, please let us know by email or phone call.**



I earnestly request our community to pray for all the sick in our parish community and beyond that this Easter can bring healing to them.

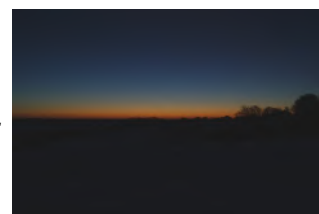
Selina Calleia, one of our valued parishioners who is very much involved in our music ministry has been diagnosed with epithelioid sarcoma and she is going for surgery to amputate her hand this coming Thursday. I request your prayers that everything goes well and that we all join in celebrating God's love.

Fr. Vince



Years ago, Larry, an old municipal lamplighter, engaged in putting out his lights one by one, was met by a reporter who asked him if he ever grew tired of his work in the cold dark night. "Never am I cheerless," said the old man, "for there is always a light ahead of me to lead me on."

"But what do you have to cheer up when you have put out the last light?" asked the news writer. "Then comes the dawn," said Larry, the lamplighter.



An old Indian chief was told of the Saviour, but he said:

"The Jesus road is good, but I have followed the old Indian road all my life, and I will follow it to the end."

A year later he was on the border of the shadow of death. As he was seeking a pathway through the darkness, he said to the missionary: "Can I turn to the Jesus road now? My road stops here. It has no path through the valley."....



CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The actual office will generally be closed,
but we will continue to be virtually open during regular office hours.
(Tuesday-Friday, 9am-4pm)

We can be reached by email: stmads@yahoo.com.au
or kenthurst@parracatholic.org or by phone—96542260.
(We will check phone messages left after hours regularly as well.)
You may also leave letters and messages in the locked letterbox outside the office.
We will try our best to keep you all updated about any changes
in the operations and services of our Parish.
We will be posting updates by email, our website: <http://stmadeleine.org.au/>
and our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>
If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our email list,
please ask them to send an email with Subject: ADD ME TO THE LIST

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Rev Vincent Savarimuthu
Assistant Priest:
Rev Jessie Balorio
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 VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator:
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:
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: Rick Jones
Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone
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