



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



22nd March 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

**“You, Lord, are a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
Those who know Your name trust You, O Lord,
because You have never deserted those who seek Your help.”**
(Psalm 9:9-10)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the peace of Christ reign our hearts this difficult time!

We are stepping into the fourth Sunday of Lent where we are facing the impact of the pandemic COVID-19 in every sphere of life. Some of us are confused and a few are deeply perturbed by the velocity of the spread of this virus. In view of containing the transmission of the virus, the government enacts so many preventive measures. We are quite aware that the Federal government has banned the gatherings of people more than 100. It applies to religious celebrations as well. We have the social and Christian responsibility of adhering to the policies in order to ensure the safety of our elderly and vulnerable people in our midst. In the spirit of compassion and love of Jesus and in line with the directives from the Diocese of Parramatta we would like to take the following measures in our parish.

The Weekend Masses

In line with the directives from the Diocese, with a heavy heart, I have to announce that the weekend Masses (beginning 21st March) will be suspended until further notice. I would like to highlight here that the “Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are from 20 March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice “(Canon 1248 §2 and Canon 2181.) May I earnestly request those who feel sick or have flu-like symptoms or elderly to stay home and participate in the Mass through live streaming.

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews/featured>) We will provide more links on our website for your immediate access. Given the fact that most of our Northern Deanery parishes have cancelled their Masses, it will put a huge pressure on us to manage the number of people who may like to come over here for the weekend Masses.

There have been many times in the history of the church where the celebration of the Eucharist and receiving our Lord was not possible. Hence the faithful used to make an Act of Spiritual Communion as a way of uniting themselves with the Lord. I encourage you those who are part of the Mass through live streaming to pray the ancient prayer:



O my Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I now embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen!

The church will be open for prayer and personal devotion on the weekends: Saturday from 4 pm to 6.30pm; Sunday 7 am to 12 noon and 4pm to 6.30 pm. Seating inside the church will be limited in accordance with the Federal Governments Guidelines. With this in mind a maximum of 95 people will be permitted inside the Church. (strictly adhering to personal distancing as required. Pews have been marked with suggested seating for families to be distanced from others and to limit numbers)

We are very fortunate to have large glass doors which will remain open, the high-level windows will also be open promoting air flow. We are also looking at the possibility of live streaming the Mass on the weekends at a particular time in the following weekend. We will keep you posted of the proceedings.



Weekday Masses

We will celebrate weekday masses as usual at 9.15 am. Considering the spiritual wellbeing of the people, we will add a morning Mass on Monday 9.15 am and evening Masses on Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm after the stations of the cross. Again, we will restrict the number of people attending the Mass to 100. (continued on next page)

Baptisms

We will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism however we ask you to restrict the participants only to your immediate family members. We will limit the number of children to be baptised at the same time.

Funerals

The celebration of the funerals will continue however only up to 100 people will be allowed to participate including the priest, choir, funeral directors etc. We request that you restrict these to immediate family members only in adherence with the government restrictions.

Parish committee activities will cease until the situations return to normal.

The Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7pm will push through, but we are cancelling the discussion group that follows. As stated above, we will have the celebration of Mass immediately after the stations of the cross.

Your contribution for the maintenance of the parish is much appreciated. Two boxes, labelled "first collection" and "second collection" will be located at the entry of the church for your contributions. You may get in touch with the office in regard to your donations.

The parish office will continue to function as normal: Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

I earnestly request you to spend time in prayer and reading the Scriptures during these challenging times. Let us be united in prayer for God's healing power to bring about newness in the lives of the people around the world. Let us stay strong in our faith to face this difficult time. God will never abandon us!

Thank you for your understanding and support for the total wellbeing of our community.

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

Gospel Reflection

**It is often said that 'seeing is believing'.
Nevertheless, it is faith that brings true sight
and, from the perspective of faith,
'believing is seeing'**

In these days of the COVID-19 pandemic, how Jesus healed the man would have gotten him a jeer look, especially with the need to be socially and physically distanced. In Jesus' time blindness or any terminal illness was considered to be a punishment from God because of one's own sin or the sin of one's parents, as the disciples show in their question to Jesus in the gospel this Sunday. In line with this belief, the blind man in the gospel story was looked down upon and he would be socially distanced or avoided. He was an outsider in the society. Does the gospel story find an echo in our situation today? Is the opening of the blind man's eyes a metaphor for us today- COVID 19 might be an opportunity for me to seek to see clearly! I could ask myself: how do I see the world? How do I see my place in this world? What do I see as important in my life? Do I see clearly or through a prism of other people's opinions and media messages?

We can see things – everyday things – with different eyes. A sick woman may be seen with the eye of compassion for illness, hope for a cure, profit from a profession. The Christian tries to see the world with the eyes of faith. The challenge of the gospel is to open our eyes to the Lord who is at work in different ways. Maybe we can walk around in this atmosphere of faith, "see-ing" God in the loving service of the doctors and nurses to the victims of COVID-19 and in the carers of our elderly and the disabled, and in everyone who is at the service of the people in this difficult and challenging time.

From the eyes of faith, COVID-19 is not a punishment sent by God; God can write straight with crooked lines... Perhaps we can take this time of enforced 'social distancing' to take time to reflect on life, its meaning, how I live it, how I interact with others. This is the time for us to hold fast to our faith in God who will not desert us. This is a time that we bear witness to our Faith in the true, living God. It is in believing, that we see God in various ways through various means.

(edited from various sources)

Fr. Vince

BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The **Baptism** preparation session scheduled for Saturday, **4th April has been cancelled.** At this point, we will have one-one-one preparations with the families. Please call the parish office on 96542260 to organise a time. Thank you.



Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious
Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled
to your protection,
implored your help,
or sought your intercession
was left unaided.



Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To you I come, before you I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

Let us pray insistently to the divine Spirit
to come to renew our hearts
and make us understand Jesus Christ
and the way to go to him...
Convinced of our need for the help of the Spirit,
let us not cease asking for it
with 'sighs too deep for words'
as Saint Paul says.
-St Madeleine Sophie

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

www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au

or can be collected from the school office.

Parish Secretary—St Madeleine's Parish

We are looking for a Parish secretary to work on a permanent part time basis, work hours to depend on the candidate's skills from a minimum of 16 hours to a max 30 hours per week (over 2 or 4 Days). The Parish secretary reports to the parish priest and will be required to work within a small parish team. The initial appointment will be a maximum term appointment for the period of one year, with a 6-month probationary period. The salary for this position will be commensurate with the experience level of the successful applicant and covered under the Clerks Private Sector Award 2010.

Your main responsibilities will include:

- Respect and support the teachings of the church and the ethos of the parish and diocese
- Providing secretarial and administrative support for the Parish Priest
- Preparing the weekly bulletins and PowerPoint presentations
- Managing and maintaining parish accounts, raising of invoices and provide financial reports
- Basic bookkeeping including account reconciliations, PAYG, BAS and superannuation
- Maintaining Baptismal and other parish registers
- Answering parish enquiries and providing sound customer service
- Supervising the Website management
- Ordering stationery, sacramental supplies, special ceremony supplies and other parish items as required

About You: You will bring

- Sound time management skills and the ability to prioritise tasks
- Cultural sensitivity & the ability to liaise with a broad range of people
- Previous experience in an administrative based role
- Strong customer service skills
- Organisational and problem-solving skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to multi-task and work quickly and efficiently
- Sound interpersonal skills and the ability to work within a team
- An active involvement in the life of the church/ Visible to the parish community and be a part of the parish activities.

Join our team!

Applications will include a Cover Letter and Resume.

Applications must also include names and contact details for at least two referees, one of whom should be your parish priest if you are not a parishioner of St Madeleine's.

Please submit your applications to the office or to stmads@yahoo.com.au

Applications close 27th March 2020.

Fr. Vince

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 SERVICES

Weekend Masses:

are temporarily suspended

Weekday Masses

9:15 - Mondays to Fridays

7pm - Wednesdays and Fridays

10-10:30 Fridays - Adoration

Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the 9.15 am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm

Baptisms: Please ring the office

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) =
\$ 1163.65

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1193

Loose = \$ 832.60

Credit cards/Direct Debit

ave weekly = \$2107

TOTAL = \$ 4132.60

If you would like to change your method of contribution to direct debit, please ring the parish office.

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Patrick Ryan, Adeline Lee-Lotze, Maria Desanti, Robyn Neasbey, Tom McCosker

For the dearly departed

Anthony Martin Pintado, Adele Conte Caccato, Michele Vaccarella, Faraj Ayoub, Marylyn Ayoub, Suhail Khoury, Cescilita Villabert, Eugenio, Pasquale, M Teresa Loccisano, Giuseppe Mileto, Maria & Rosario Agresta, Domenica & Francesco Campanella, Giuseppina & Giuseppe Papalia, Vincenzina Americano, Salvatore Campo, Giovanni Cristaldi, Santo Cristaldi, Orazia Cristaldi Tony Boffo, Rex & Irene D'Souza, Gerson & Maria Dias, Louis Sammut, Stanley Rodrigues, Charles James Bradley, Benito Sabellano, Rena Hooper, Patricia Bryant, Eduardo Piccoli, Maria Piccoli, Giovanni Scarpin, Domenica Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, and Grace Corpuz

For healing of the sick

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



Social Justice @ St Mads

HARMONY
DAY 21
MARCH



www.harmony.gov.au

Harmony day is celebrated this weekend, which celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

As we move to being based at home there some great short on-line courses you can do. I will be undertaking ones from Rahamim. www.rahamim.org.au/online-courses The SOLVE course looks at where our food comes from, including health and food safety. Consuming food using the 'SOLVE' philosophy asks; Is it SEASONAL? Is it ORGANIC? Is it LOCAL? Is it VEGETARIAN? Is it ETHICAL?

Another on-line course:

<https://sdgacademy.org/course/laudato-si-on-care-for-our-common-home/>

What is your on-line course suggestion to share with our community, send a link to sue@kcj.net.au

~Sue Martin

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 (stmadeleine.org.au) and our Facebook page: (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 to stmads@yahoo.com.au with Subject: ADD ME TO THE LIST

POSTPONED - BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL

Following directives from the Diocese of Parramatta, the Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for this coming weekend (21 and 22 March) around the theme of the Good Samaritan, has been postponed until later in the year. yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

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Issues of The Catholic Weekly are available for \$2 each. Copies are in the Piety Stall.

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
- Altar Linen Coordinator:** Catherine Diekman
- Parish Council Chair:** Patrick Tuttle
- Finance Committee Chair:** Aaron Cauchi

Popular Dr Selina Leow and Dr Darren Calleia Stanhope Dental Centre



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