



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

13th December 2020

Gaudete Sunday
Is 61: 1—2, 10—11
1 Thes 5: 16—24
Jn 1: 6—8, 19—28

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Dear Sisters and brothers,

How are you? With the easing of restrictions, you may be busy preparing for the celebration of Christmas. Let us not forget to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Joy and Peace of Christ to envelop us. One of the preparations is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). There will be a **Second Rite of Reconciliation on Thursday, 17th December at 7 pm.** I would encourage our parishioners to make it a priority.

Secondly, I would like to draw your kind attention to **the registration of your attendance for the Christmas Masses.** Could you please pass on this information to your friends who may like to participate in any one of the celebrations? There are so many slots available for the Family Mass, 9pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass, 8am and 10am Masses on Christmas day.

Third Sunday of Advent is celebrated as **‘Rejoice Sunday’.** Congratulations to the Year 6 students of St. Madeleine’s for the successful completion of their primary education and taking a significant step towards High School studies. The joy of these children is echoing in their entire families. There is so much joy in sharing our material blessings with the less fortunate, especially this time of the year. Thanks to the organizers of the ‘Hamper Appeal’ and all those who were a part of the campaign. There is so much expectant joy in the coming feasts as the COVID-19 restrictions are eased for the families to come together and plan to get away domestically. The rolling out of the vaccination in the United Kingdom and Canada gives the entire world a glimpse of hope for an end to the deadly virus. While the rich countries are able to have access to such a vaccination, what about the impoverished countries? We hope that ‘a humanitarian’ attitude and a compassion will prevail to help the entire world’ that as Prophet Isaiah says in the first reading, “I (every one) will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God (Is. 61:10)”.

Waiting entails hope and expectant joy. Here below is the reflection given by Antonio P. Pueyo. ‘We wait for buses, trains and planes. But nothing beats waiting for a boat. When it is first seen, it appears as a speck in the horizon. That first sight of the boat is an exciting and a happy one. The excitement builds up as the boat approaches the shore and grows bigger. They are here! They are arriving. The same excitement is mirrored among the passengers as they first see the shore, and as they come nearer, they see the people waving on the wharf. The docking procedure is merely an anti-climax.’

This might explain why the Church has seen fit to make the Third Sunday of Advent as rejoicing day or Gaudete Sunday. The image of waiting for a boat explains it. We rejoice because the day of salvation is near.

The Gospel this Sunday contains the declaration of John the Baptist, “Among you stands one whom you do not know, even whose sandal I am not worthy to untie (Jn. 1:26).” We rejoice because God is among us. God-in-Jesus came among us two thousand years ago. We celebrate His coming every Christmas day. God continues to be among us today in many ways, perhaps as John says, in ways we do not know. Jesus is present today and He is most visible in the Holy Eucharist and in the faces of everyone and especially the disadvantaged and the people on the edge.

The Christian spirit is that of joy. As St. Paul tells the Thessalonians in the second reading, “Rejoice always (1 Thes. 5:16).” What is this Christian joy? Is the Christian joyful because he is exempted from troubles and crises in life? No, not even the Blessed Mother and the apostles and saints had this privilege. In fact, they had to face persecutions. The Christian disciple is joyful even in the midst of trials.

Christian joy is not based on things that are passing. It is being secure in God. Christian joy is based on the conviction that God is around and ultimately in charge. It is based on the belief that as we do our part the best way we can, all will be well. Although we engage ourselves in secular and temporal affairs, we can also take a look at ourselves from a distance and say, all this will pass, God will take care of whatever is lacking in our efforts. In this sense, the Christian disciple retains a sense of humour. We can be serious about our daily affairs but we can also laugh at our follies knowing that God continues to care for us in spite of our foibles and shortcomings.

God must be saying, “Why don’t you ever learn? I already showed you the way to live. I sent you my Son, and still, you are slow to learn.” I recall the mother who was scolding her daughter while bandaging her scraped knee, “I told you to be careful, see?” Then she let her run and play again. The caring mother did not prohibit her daughter from playing just because she fell down. With a kiss and a prayer, she let her go, secure in her mother’s love. God is like that. God cares.

God sometimes shakes His head at the way we have made life miserable for ourselves and others. Through His messengers or prophets, God tells us, “Don’t hurt yourselves. Help those in need. Share with others. Stop that.” And He allows the world to keep on turning. We continue working, playing, praying, thinking, loving, singing, and dancing, until God says, “Come home. Time to go to bed. Time to rest.”

With a God like that, shouldn’t we rejoice?

God’s blessings,

Fr. Vince



Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, a community of faith and service, strives to be a witness for Christ’s love far and wide, reflecting the humility and wisdom of St Madeleine, the Patroness of the parish.

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Masses

MASS	STATUS	Link to book
5:30pm Christmas Eve	Still have around 200 tickets left!	https://www.trybooking.com/BNKKF
7pm Christmas Eve	ALMOST FULL	https://www.trybooking.com/BNKKS
9pm Christmas Eve	Tickets still available	
Midnight Mass		
8am Christmas Day		
10am Christmas Day		

Please ensure that you book a spot for you and your family as we need to comply with COVID regulations. When you have registered, your tickets will be emailed to you and you will need to present these at the Mass. Registrations will close on 22nd December. We highly encourage that you wear masks during the Christmas celebration. If you need assistance booking, please contact our office on 9654 2260 during office hours.

Second Rite of Reconciliation

Thursday, 17th December at 7pm

Please make this a priority in preparation for Christmas

Social Justice @ St Mads

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our Hamper appeal this year. All those receiving our love appreciate it. Last week, I had an opportunity as part of the Faith & Ecology Network to visit Wivenhoe House Camden, owned by the Good Samaritan Sisters. Wivenhoe is also an Environment and Conservation Site of 300ha of land dedicated by them to rehabilitation and conservation into the future. It is Cumberland Plain Woodland along the Nepean River.



The human and the Earth are totally implicated, each in the other. If there is no spirituality in the Earth, then there is no spirituality in ourselves. (Thomas Berry, "The Spirituality of the Earth," in *The Sacred Universe*, 69).



Join us for the Sunday Gospel reflections on Tuesday mornings from 10:30am to 11:30am. For more info and Zoom details, contact Careyanne at careyannemoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813

Women's Prayer Day

Join us for a day of reflection for Advent and healing. We connect with place, spirit, and heart to heal our world, refresh our minds and strengthen relationships.

Date: 12 December

Where: Annangrove; Time: 9.30 – 1pm and on.

Numbers limited. COVID safe.

Contact: Careyanne Moylan 0438791813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com



Our parish is a community gathered to worship God, bring His light to the world and care for his body. We have responded to this by creating the **St Mads Care Group** whose mission is "to bring Christ's light through giving hope and service to others." Our aim is to "provide to members of our parish practical support and care such as meals, transport, shopping and assistance". If you are interested in joining us, would be willing to cook an occasional meal for those in need or know of anyone who needs assistance, please contact us through Bernadette, 0418 248 256

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$893.75
 2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$2055.00
 Loose = \$777.45
 Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000
TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4832.45

If you would like to donate to the parish or have recently changed your credit card, please phone the parish office on 9654 2260.

Thank you for your generosity!

BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 2 January at 4:30pm** in the function centre. Please ring or email the office to book in: 9654 2260 (Tue-Fri, 10am –4pm) stmads@yahoo.com.au

Families who completed their preparations are welcome to get in touch with the office to schedule their child's baptism.



Congratulations to the newly baptised!

Sunday, 13th December 2020
 Mary-Anna Yacoub



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Jill Margaret Tuttle and George Cascun

For the dearly departed

Philomena Beresford, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Ron Callanan, Domenica Scarpin, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Shedly & Chahide Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Mary Merhi, Yousef Moit, Pietro Ceccato, Jed Manning and Ferraro

Family



For healing of the sick

David Parslow, Maureen Burke, Murphy Family, Kerry Rogers, Michael O'Conner, Aureen Dunn, Nancy Anne Kazzi, Aura Krakowski, June Brennan, John Spencer, Keith Dawson, Joe Fuda, India, Vince Luca, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Sheila Cañabano, Candida Irgalbandra, Florence Smith, Gregory Borg, Maria Peach, Paul Byrne, Andy, Patrick Breen, Jacqueline Kelly, Tricia, Michael Foley, Samuel Abella, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Giuseppi 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, phone call, or by dropping a note in the locked box outside the parish office.**

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:

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

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Parish Secretaries:

Jay-Ann Gutierrez
Yvette Jacobs

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

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00 am, 5.30pm

Children's Liturgy

TBA

Weekday Masses

9:15 - Tuesdays to Fridays

9:45—10:15 Fridays - Adoration

Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the
9.15 am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm

Baptisms: Every Sunday at 11:20
(Must make a booking)

Weddings: By appointment

St John of the Cross

Feast Day:
14th December



John is a saint

because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle. Cont...

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross>



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

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

Join us for live-stream Masses on Sunday at 10 am on

ON AIR

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses>



We are calling for our parish community to help raise much needed funds and awareness as part of our 2020 Christmas Appeal.

The high cost of living, stagnant wages and unsteady jobs can push anyone into crisis. Especially the year we have had in 2020. Your support this appeal is vital in helping us provide essential care and programs to those in our parish community who need it the most.

This year we are taking donations through the following website up to the end of Dec 2020. Is live and ready to go!

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/2020-christmas-appeal-st-madeleine-s-parish-kenthurst>

Your donations will help us to assist those who are most in need with practical financial support including food vouchers, food parcels, clothing & household items, medical costs, accommodation, removal costs, petrol vouchers. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and your receipt will be automatically processed and sent via email.

If you are unable to donate online please feel free to put your donation in a marked envelope and drop into the Vinnies box at the left side of the church foyer.

We thank you in advance for your support!

[fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au](https://www.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au)



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

That Catholic Shop. That Catholic Shop is an exciting development for Aid to the Church in Need Australia. This year do some Christmas shopping on the online store and support the works of ACN to keep the faith alive. Please visit www.thatcatholicshop.com



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures. We also highly recommend wearing masks to Mass and other services. You are encouraged to check with your parish on what measures they have in place before attending. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on the Diocese of Parramatta website (www.parracatholic.org), on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and on our Diocesan social media channels.

Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta!

The Epiphany Pilgrimage 2021

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. From 2 – 9 January, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and spend time in prayer and fellowship. Limited overnight registrations are available, and day walkers are welcome. For more information and to register, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>

Rouse Hill Parish Christmas Novena Dawn Masses: From 16 December

This Christmas, Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill will be celebrating a Novena of Dawn Masses (also known as Simbang Gabi) leading up to Christmas. Commencing on 16 December, they will be celebrated at 5.00am. Bookings are required via <https://www.trybooking.com/BMWOD>. For details, please contact the parish on rousehill@parracatholic.org or (02) 8883 4063.

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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
12/13 DEC	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Belinda Da Ruos Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Darren McNeil	Phyllis Hannah	
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Anthony Hooper Belinda Da Ruos	David Hall-O'Dwyer Adriana Kennedy	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara and Sam Coddington	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christopher Kang	Saniya Arnold
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone and Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Wedding		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman
19/20 DEC	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Sandra De Nardi Belinda Da Ruos	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	JNR MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Patrick McNeil	Elizabeth Cauchi	Sara Sawaya
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donated by Hills Family Funerals Arranged by Teresa Boemi		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper