



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

20th December 2020
4th Sunday in Advent
2 Sm 7: 1—5, 8—12, 14, 16
Rom 16: 25—27
Lk 1: 26—38

When you approach each moment with fresh eyes and an open heart, you are no longer defined by your past pain or your fears for the future”

Dear sisters and brothers,

Just five days to go for the celebration of Christmas. While many countries are locked down, we Australians are very fortunate and privileged to celebrate this significant event with the utmost responsibility of caring for one another and adhering to the regulations. I would like to bring a few things to your kind attention:

- Our parish is holding six Masses for Christmas in view of spreading out the worshippers across various Masses to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the wider community.
- There will be live music in all the Masses in compliance with the regulations. The Congregation is not expected to sing or chant unless they wear a mask. The musicians and singers have been well advised to adhere to the regulations and I am very grateful for every one of them for their tremendous effort to make the celebrations vibrant and lively with singing.
- I would highly recommend wearing of masks during the celebrations that everyone feels safe in and out of the church.
- We are in need of people to assist for a smooth running of celebrations through various ministries. Kindly jump on board and make Christmas COVID-free in our community.
- May I request everyone to cooperate with the welcomers and other volunteers who will marshal the registration of the attendees and other requirements.
- Make sure that you bring your registration tickets with you as you come for the celebration.
- If there is any query, you are most welcome to get in touch with the parish office and we will try our best to help you.

Here below is the reflection for this Sunday:

In Pope Francis' new encyclical on social friendship and dialogue, Fratelli Tutti, he speaks of the need for an open heart, explaining that such an interior disposition is key for building peace in our world. Mary's response to the angel in today's Gospel demonstrates the kind of openness that Pope Francis speaks of and that God desires of us.

Mary declares that she is open to welcoming Jesus; open to walking the hard path of discipleship that will lead to the death and resurrection of her Son; open to becoming the mother of all peoples.

What would it look like for us to have such a radical openness of heart towards God's will and toward love of neighbour? In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis writes, "the guarantee of an authentic openness to God, on the other hand, is a way of practicing the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters."

Our world and our country today are fraught with division. Hateful language, mean-spiritedness, and belittlement of others abound. It is these kinds of breakdown in human relationships that Pope Francis is addressing in his new encyclical. These patterns lead to violence and a culture of indifference.

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis highlights the Good Samaritan story from the Gospel of Luke as means for understanding how we can arrive at the kind of "openness of heart" needed in today's fractured world. He understands the encounter in the story between the injured Jewish man and the Samaritan as not merely a single moment of charity but an encounter of mercy which leaves both individuals transformed. At the time of Luke's writing, Jews and Samaritans hated each other; such an encounter could only have left a deep mark on each of them and their understanding of the other's people.

Fr. Michael Bassano, MM, gives an example of the power of encounter in his ministry in a refugee camp in South Sudan: "The church isn't a place; it's a way of being together. So even though we're in a Nuer tribe area of the UN camp, we intentionally invited Shilluk and Dinka tribes from other areas of the camp, especially the youth, to come here. It's a place where diverse people come to become one people, worshipping God together. Every time we gather on Sunday for worship, we are a family of God, not divided by tribe, at peace with each other."

Today's Gospel reminds us that "Nothing is impossible for God." The barriers that divide people today sometimes seem unsurmountable. When we live in a world of alternative facts, of starkly different visions of reality and for the future, it can seem impossible to find common ground.

But as we leave the Season of Advent and celebrate Christmas next week, we are reminded that God enters through the smallest foothold: a baby born to a poor teenage girl in an obscure part of the world. God can create in us an open heart if we offer up the smallest bit of room. (Maryknoll Reflections)

Looking forward to celebrate Christmas with you!

God's blessings,
Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

Christmas Masses

MASS	STATUS	Link to book
5:30pm Christmas Eve	Almost full!	https://www.trybooking.com/BNKKF
7pm Christmas Eve	SOLD OUT	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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer and assist with the Christmas Masses, please contact the parish office before Tues, 22nd December. We will need COVID Marshals, Eucharistic Ministers, Jnr Ministers, Ministers of the Altar, Collectors and Readers. Your assistance would be much appreciated!

Thursday Morning Mass
Please note, this coming Thursday (24 Dec) is Christmas Eve so there will be no morning Mass at 9:15am. Weekday Mass will be on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

Social Justice @ St Mads



Thank you to the Marian College students who have sent Christmas messages to our sister parish in Cailaco, and in Tetan the local language, a wonderful way to share the Christmas spirit.

The Pacific Calling project has been working with various Sisters in the Pacific to tell the stories of the impact of climate disruptions. It is lovely to hear that the Office of Social Justice will be publishing as an occasional paper. See the stories. <http://pacificclimatewatch.com.au/wp/>

Our hampers were delivered this week and toys shared at the Baabayn Homework Club Christmas pool party. They were so very much appreciated. If you are looking for an Advent pilgrimage, consider the 2021 Epiphany Pilgrimage January 2 – 8 <http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org/> Thank you to Carey Anne for leading our prayer day liturgy last week, a truly wonderful day. Our prayer to finish is below. If anyone is interested in our prayer station resources let us know and we can share. Christ has no body now on earth but yours; No hands but yours; No feet but yours; Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world; Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people. (St Teresa of Avila)



Come and pray the rosary after Morning Mass on Thursdays!
Time: 9.45am
Contact: Kay - 0429965858



Sunday Gospel Reflections and Book Club will resume in February 2021! For more info details contact Careyanne at careyannemoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813

Women's Day of Prayer

A wonderful, uplifting, enlightening, spiritual day was held in the garden and home at Annangrove. An opening cup of tea and liturgy set the scene for a laughter filled day with plenty of time for experiences and contemplation. The theologies of St Teresa Avila, Fr Thomas Berry, Sr Mary Abbot and others were explored, and our prayer concepts challenged. The themes of The Woman at the Well were embraced in many levels. Some had already left but a quick picture was taken for the album. Looking forward to our Lenten Reflection next March.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1223.25
2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$1101.00
Loose = \$744.50

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$3845.50

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, 20th December 2020
Olivia Ortolan



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Jill Margaret Tuttle and George Cascun

For the dearly departed

Portelli Family, Buttigieg Family, Felician Sabellano, Alf Barbagallo, 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

Jasminka Medak, 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, 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, phone call, or by dropping a note in the locked box outside the parish office.*

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Alexandra Mifsud, Selina Calleia & Joan Sattler

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

Welcomers Coordinator:

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

The Nativity of Our Lord

Feast Day:
25 December



On this day, the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary and Joseph, caring for his foster-son, help round out the scene. But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd, summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A shepherd willing to seek out something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "non-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts—somewhere between skepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And like Mary and the shepherds, let's treasure that discovery in our hearts.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/nativity-of-the-lord>



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



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

Positions Vacant:

Sacramental Coordinator (part-time) – Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown
Applications close Monday 21 December

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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/>

RCIA: Exploring the Scrutinies Workshop: 10 February

The Office For Worship will be running an RCIA workshop on the Scrutinies for RCIA coordinators and teams early next year on the evening of Wednesday 10 February at the Institute For Mission, Blacktown (IFM). If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org

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19/20 DEC		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	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
26/27 DEC	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carol & Terry Scott Amber G, Brendan F	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina Lidia Ceccato
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Belinda Da Ruos	Sandra Tabone Careyanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers Addison Bayly-Pike	Patrick McNeil	Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella, Belle Craig and Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donated and arranged by Cosima Murdocca		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper