



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

27th December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph

Gen 15: 1–6, 21:1–3

Heb 11: 8, 11–12, 17–19

Lk 2: 22–40

“FAMILY IS NOT AN IMPORTANT THING. IT’S EVERYTHING”

Michael J. Fox

A certain priest received a gift of a beautiful album of family photographs from his mother for Christmas. Beginning with his great-great grandparents, a family history unfolds throughout the pages of the album. The album begins with an inscription written by his mother. God, family and country – fidelity to these is the hallmark of our family. Bound by our faith, love and tradition, may we always have the fortitude to defend and honour our God-given gifts and always be true and loving to each other. Are they not powerful words?

Today (Sunday) is the Feast of the Holy Family. Thank God for family. We see single parent families, two parent families, grandparents raising children, children of multi-ethnic backgrounds different from their parents - all these various rainbows of families add colour to God’s creation. Let us preserve and protect the family from anything or anyone that would destroy it, the very foundation of our society and nation. Family is not just about offspring. It is about parents and children united in love and where God’s presence abides.

Today’s liturgy directs our attention to the Holy Family as the model of all family life. We recall the significance of the lives of Mary and Joseph for Jesus’ spiritual, physical, and psychological growth and development. They played a prominent role in the growth and development of Jesus, the Son of God. It was through the love that Jesus experienced in his family, the love that Mary and Joseph had for him, that he first came to know the love of God. The parents nurtured him in every aspect of life that Jesus would be able to carry out the will of God for the salvation of the entire world.

Looking at the readings, we also meet a few elderly people: Sarah, Simeon and Anna. They are known for their staunch faith in God and their commitment to serve Him till the end. Amen. It is appropriate that we reflect on these Biblical figures especially this time as the pandemic has made us more aware of the elderly. Of the deaths, over 80% were older than 65. This contrasts with the 1918-1919 pandemic that disproportionately killed the young. Our pandemic, by and large, spared children and young people - thanks be to God! But that very fact has made us more aware of the needs of our elderly and how much we owe to them. Today, in our time of pandemic, we honour our elderly who place their trust in God. With them we say, "Rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!"

Today, families face multiple challenges such as having a permanent shelter, separation or divorce, infidelity, parenting issues, pressure at work or school, unemployment and financial problems, illness or disability of a family member, death of a family member, drug, alcohol, gambling addiction and so on.

The challenge of the post-modern family is to find a balance between competing interests in adult’s lives and their children’s lives and to find consistent values that can be reinforced within the family and communities at large. Faith in God and openness to His ways are the keys to cement the families against the destructive external forces. In addition to this, the families should engage in open dialogue about their values, though some people may disagree. This transparent discussion will help the families to become a sanctuary in a constantly changing and confusing world we live in.

Pope Francis relates our call to mission with Mary, the Mother of Jesus: “She conceived Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit, and every Christian, each one of us, is called to welcome the Word of God, to welcome Jesus in ourselves (as Mary did) and then bring Him to everyone. The one who encounters Jesus Christ feels the impulse to witness him or give witness of what he or she has encountered, and this is the Christian calling – to go and give witness!” (Sources duly acknowledged)

Let our families bear witness to God’s Kingdom!

God’s blessings,

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to thank each and everyone of the volunteers in the parish ministries in the year 2020. It was a very challenging year for everyone but you held your spirit high and persevered in your service. Your commitment to our community is very evident in everything you do. Your willingness to give so freely of your time and service is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank all the parishioners for your understanding, cooperation and support throughout this trying year. Looking forward to your continued volunteer involvement with every event of our parish.

Fr. Vince

NEW YEAR MASSES

Thursday 31st December, New Years Eve, at 11.30pm.
Thanksgiving Benediction followed by Midnight Mass.
January 1 2021, New Years Day, Mass at 9.15am
This is subject to the COVID-19 restrictions.



Those who would like to be a part of this celebration will have to book online. Please go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNUON>

The online registrations will be open on Tuesday, 29 December 2020 at 7 pm.

Social Justice @ St Mads

Mercy Global Living - Cosmic Advent Wreath is rooted in "deep incarnation" – God's love outpoured in the creation of the Cosmos. Week one: Birth of the Universe; week two: Birth of the solar system; week three: Birth of Jesus the Christ; and week four: My Birth into the Whole Cosmic Body of the Universe. The fifth moment is centred on "All is One," that moment which Pope Francis speaks about as the "joy of our hope."



Please support the Caritas Pacific appeal after the Pacific was hit with two tropical cyclones and one tropical low which has affected Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, where in some villages, the only building standing is the church. Thousands of people are without shelter and are working together to support one another over the Christmas period. My Journey, Our Journey: <https://thewell.org.au/video/my-journey-our-journey-chapter-one/>



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

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple are involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting, they began to wonder: Could they possibly get married in Heaven? When St. Peter showed up, they asked him. St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he left. The couple sat and waited, and waited. Two months passed and the couple were still waiting. While waiting, they began to wonder what would happen if it didn't work out; could you get a divorce in heaven? After yet another month, St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven." "Great!" said the couple, "But we were just wondering, what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?" St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard onto the ground. "What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple. "OH, COME ON!," St. Peter shouted, "It took me three months to find a priest up here! Do you have any idea how long it'll take me to find a lawyer?"



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$713.95
2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$1427.00
Loose = \$686.95
Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000
TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4113.95

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.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Jill Margaret Tuttle and George Cascun

For the dearly departed

Mulvihill & Culligan Family, Michelle Vaccarella, Pablito Corpuz, Antonio Ceroli, 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, Shedy & 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 Brennen, John Spencer, Keith Dawson, 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, 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 Story of Mary, Mother of God



Feast Day: 1st January

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's "first" thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was "first" in God's mind, Mary was "second" insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be his mother. *Cont...*

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/mary-mother-of-god>



Stay in touch through our
parish Facebook page:

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Parish](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/
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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath – Applications close 15 January 2021

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Welcome to The Well

The Diocese of Parramatta proudly announces its latest initiative – The Well. In what can be described as 'Netflix for Catholics', The Well is a new online platform that provides free, 'on-demand' inspiration for families, children, young people and faith communities. Explore fresh offerings every week on topical issues that inform, entertain and challenge. Check it out at www.thewell.org.au

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal wraps up for 2020

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta remains committed to assisting anyone who has questions regarding marriage annulments. The Tribunal Office will be unattended from 24 December until 11 January, but messages can be left on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org and they will be returned when the office re-opens.

Office For Worship 2021 Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office for Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again in 2021 in early February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in the Liturgical Ministries of Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar at your parish. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.alimangoan@parracatholic.org.

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/>



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	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY	
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
2/3 JAN	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Rose & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Paul Cashman Belinda Da Ruos	Gerry McArdle Nigel Saunders	Jacqui Nisbet Michelle Eamer	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christian Maaait Elizabeth Cauchi	Tiago Gregory Hannah Tran
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Arranged by Mari and Maureen		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino