



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



28 ANNANGROVE RD. KENTHURST NSW 2156
(P) 9654 2260
(E) KENTHURST@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG OR
STMADS@YAHOO.COM.AU
(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM



Christmas 2020

"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most." -Ruth Carter Stapleton

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I wish you all a Merry Christmas! Whether you are a regular attendee or this is your first time with us, we would like you to know much we appreciate you joining us for our Christmas celebration here at St Madeleine's!

2020 has been a tough, troubling and challenging year! Every one of us has gone through various degrees of suffering due to COVID19. With the ease of restrictions, we had a great hope that our families and friends would be able to gather together to celebrate Christmas. But the tiny virus has ruined our plans and we are challenged now to contain the spreading of the virus with adherence to the restrictions that the government has in place.

Dear sisters and brothers, many things in life may be frustrating. Sometimes, giving up seems the easiest and quickest way out. There are times when hanging on will get us where we want to be. Hanging on in our faith in God is the key. It is our faith in God that brings us joy even in the midst of suffering. As James Finley says, 'Although it is true that there is no refuge from suffering; it's also true that suffering has no refuge from love that permeates it, through and through and through and through and through. Love protects us from nothing, but it also unexplainably sustains us in all things.' The love that surrounds our families is the real gift of Christmas. This Christmas in the midst of COVID-19 reiterates the truth that God is truly present with the hurting world today. God's love born in Bethlehem is born again in our hearts and that is our bedrock and foundation of our lives. As God connects to us, let us connect to one another with great love and concern, and with social responsibility for the wellbeing of everyone in our communities.

Christmas enkindles in us great hope that the coming year will bring glad tidings to the entire humanity. We will be able to see new beginnings for sure in every spectrum of life.

May the Light of Christ eradicate the darkness of our frustrations, disappointments, illness, grief, guilt, hopelessness, selfishness, stress, depression, anger and anxiety and so on and bring healing and inner joy that no one can steal from us.

The story goes that some time ago a mother punished her 5-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and she became even more upset when the child used the gold paper to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift box to her mother the next morning and said, "This is for you, Momma."

The mother was embarrassed by her earlier over reaction, but her anger flared again when she opened the box and found it was empty. She spoke to her daughter in a harsh manner. "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

The little daughter had tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Momma, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full." The mother was crushed. She fell on her knees and put her arms around her little girl, and she begged her forgiveness for her thoughtless anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later, and it is told that the mother kept that gold box by her bed for all the years of her life. Whenever she was discouraged or faced difficult problems, she would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us, as human beings, has been given a golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and GOD. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Have safe holidays ensuring the wellbeing and safety of everyone in our communities!

United with you in praying for an end to this pandemic,

Fr. Vince



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

WELCOME TO ST MADELEINE'S PARISH COMMUNITY

In our busy and self-isolating culture, we somehow find time to connect to our families and friends and keep our bond growing. The key to build a community in faith, love and justice is to be founded on God. One of the best ways of keeping connected to God and the community is to be involved in the church celebrations and its various ministries such as music, minister on the altar, visiting the elderly in nursing homes, teaching Scriptures to the students of the state schools in our jurisdiction, country fair, social justice programme, Vinnies, maintenance, junior altar servers, sacramental programmes, etc.

Your contribution, however small it may be, is going to make a difference in our community. We are all created for the purpose of serving one another with a compassionate heart. Come on board and let us enrich our community with the joy and love of Jesus!

You are welcome to contact the parish office for any assistance you might need and we will try our best to help you!

Fr. Vince



Christmas Truce

World War I was a dark episode for humanity. It's estimated that between 17 to 40 million people died, making it one of the deadliest conflicts in history (surpassed only by WWII). But amid the bloody horrors of war, there was yet an inspiring glimpse of human fraternity and kindness on the Christmas of 1914. When hostilities were at their lowest, soldiers across the front managed to find in them the dignity to stop the fight and come together through common ground. And that truly gives you hope for our species.

As the story goes, while British and German troops were in the trenches of France, some soldiers started singing carols on Christmas Eve, and the other side reciprocated. German troops walked across the battlefield the morning after, shouting "Merry Christmas!" in English. The British received them and both sides exchanged cigarettes and souvenirs. Some even got together to play a friendly football match!



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-
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/
St-Madeleines-Masses](https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses)

