



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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



“Epiphanies awaken the soul”

– Adrienne Posey

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy New Year! We have stepped into the new year 2021 with the hope that the spread of the virus will end and that the entire world will fare well. The pandemic has exposed the dark realities of racism, economic disparity, terrorism, inequality, etc. God invites us to embrace a positive outlook on life despite the months of misery that everyone has faced in varying degrees. With steadfastness and determination, we have to continue our lives against such odds. Like the magi, in the gospel this Sunday, our journey should continue in a different direction (as shown by God) with renewed vigour and hope.

The Feast of the ‘Epiphany of the Lord’ is the feast of manifestation. On this day, we celebrate the coming of the mysterious strangers from across the desert who had been following heavenly direction and who finally arrived at the source of the brilliance they had seen.

The Epiphany can be looked on as a symbol for our pilgrimage through life to Christ. The feast invites us to see ourselves as images of the Magi, a people on a journey to Christ. Today’s Gospel also tells us the story of the Magi’s encounter with the evil King Herod. This encounter symbolizes three reactions to Jesus’ birth: hatred, indifference, and adoration; a) A group of people headed by Herod planned to destroy Jesus; b) Another group, composed of priests and scribes, ignored Jesus; c) The members of a third group — shepherds and the magi — adored Jesus and offered themselves to Him.

The Jewish people represent a group of individuals who are called by God, but remain indifferent. They do not go in search of Christ, because they await a different and more ‘worldly’ Messiah, or fear that in finding Him, they may be compelled to change their ways, and they are not ready to be transformed, or to give up their personal comforts and desires.

Herod represents a second group of persons, the kind who seek Christ, not to honour Him, but to persecute Him, because He is a threat to their authority.

The Magi, on the other hand, represent disciples who accept God’s call, persevere in following the “star” and, on finding Christ, offer the gift of themselves to Him in love and reverence.

To which group do we belong? Are we at times apathetic like the chief priests and scribes, who are unwilling to follow God’s will? Or, like Herod, do we at times abuse our authority and take advantage of community or family members for personal gain? Or are we like the Magi who seek and find Christ, honour and pay homage to Him with our life?

As disciples in community, we should respond to the manifestation and coming of Christ Jesus into the world and into our lives with humble reverence, giving ourselves in willing service to Christ and to our fellowmen. Our life witness should be a manifestation to others of God’s love for us and our love for Him. Like the “star at its rising” that the Magi saw and followed, our lives should be examples that lead others, especially unbelievers, to seek, find, and worship Christ Jesus!

We do not have to look far and wide for proofs of our Lord Jesus’ manifestation. He shows Himself to us through, and in other people; our parents who gave us life, our brethren in and out of community who love us, and even in our enemies who help us realize that away from God, no goodness is possible. Jesus also makes Himself known to us through the events in our life, whether pleasant or distressing, and through the testimonies and influence of God-sent persons. (*Source duly acknowledged*)

We pray this Sunday, in person or online, for clear minds, courageous hearts and the perseverance to stay on the path Jesus has manifested to us: the way of perseverance, care for one another’s wellbeing, social responsibility and reaching out to the vulnerable and the elderly. If his is the path we follow, we too will shine in the darkness and be guides to others, to help them find their way home to a land and a people of light bearers.

God’s blessings,

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

Social Justice @ St Mads

Peace Day theme this year is 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace.' A culture of care is "a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time." World Day of Peace is observed in the Church on January 1, the feast day for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This year, it is the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables, a time to consider how food systems contribute to society, the economy and environmental sustainability.



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

WHY CAN'T WE TRY THIS IN THE NEW YEAR?

Today at work this elderly lady asked me if I could have someone help walk her to her car. I told her I would help her. She instantly grabbed hold of my arm. She could not walk fast and after every few steps she had to take a little break. She made conversation with me and was talking about music. I mentioned to her that I went to school for music and she started talking about Tschaikevsky and other composers with me. Our whole walk took about 10 minutes in total.

She told me she doesn't get to talk to people much and it was nice to be able to have a conversation with someone. She was so excited and her face lit up with joy. When we reached her car she thanked me so much and said she wishes she could take me home to continue our conversation.

You never know how such a small gesture as simple as talking can make someone's day.

Timone Holliman



This little fella was having a tough morning and fell out on the floor.

I saw his mother step back and look. She stated this is how he has been expressing himself lately.

I decided to get on his level and talk to him.

He started to cry so I wiped his tears and told him it will be ok.



As an adult, sometimes all we want is one person to stop, get on our level and maybe wipe our tears.

These children are entitled to bad days just as us, so give them that moment to bring it together. Get on someone's level today and make them smile!

Spread PEACE and LOVE you might be that person that gives them hope!

Indiana State Police

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$425.35
2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes & Loose = \$2858.98

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4858.98

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, 6 February 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, 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 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
Susie Lee

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



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)

Thank you to all the individuals, families
and parishes who helped us support
suffering and persecuted Catholic
communities, particularly in this year of
the coronavirus pandemic. We pray that
the joy and peace of the Christmas
season will refresh all our hearts and
prepare us to live our faith into the New Year. www.aidtochurch.org.



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

St John Neumann

Feast Day: 5th January

Perhaps
because the
United States

got a later start in the history of the world, it
has relatively few canonized saints, but
their number is increasing.

John Neumann was born in what is now
the Czech Republic. After studying in
Prague, he came to New York at 25 and
was ordained a priest. He did missionary
work in New York until he was 29, when he
joined the Redemptorists and became its
first member to profess vows in the United
States. He continued missionary work in
Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he
became popular with the Germans.

At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he
organized the parochial school system into
a diocesan one, increasing the number of
pupils almost twentyfold within a short time.

Gifted with outstanding organizing ability,
he drew into the city many teaching
communities of sisters and the Christian
Brothers. During his brief assignment as
vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he
placed them in the forefront of the
parochial movement.

Well-known for his holiness and learning,
spiritual writing and preaching, on October
13, 1963, John Neumann became the first
American bishop to be beatified.
Canonized in 1977, he is buried in St.
Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia.

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



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

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

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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

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.alimangohan@parracatholic.org.

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2/3 JAN	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM VIGIL	
	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Rose & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Paul Cashman Belinda Da Ruos	Gerry McArdle Nigel Saunders	Jacqui Nisbet Michelle Eamer	
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Arranged by Mari, Maureen and Pauline		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino
9/10 JAN	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran and Rocco Scardino	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Nicole Foxall Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Darren McNeil	Phyllis Hannah	HJS—Akash Arnold
	READERS	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Tony Hooper Belinda Da Ruos	David Hall-O'Dwyer Adriana Kennedy	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christopher Kang	Saniya Arnold
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Arranged by Mari, Maureen and Pauline		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino