28th November 2021
First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
1 Thessalonians 3: 12 –4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

SOMETIMES, ALL YOU NEED IS A LITTLE INSPIRATION TO KEEP ROLLING

Several years ago, a bus driver in Oklahoma reached an unusual record. In 23 years, he had driven a bus over 900,000 miles without a single accident. When asked how he had done it, he gave this simple answer: "Watch the road."

In today's gospel Jesus gives the same advice in several ways: "Be vigilant at all times," "Stand erect," "Raise your heads," "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy." This is not only good spiritual advice for the Advent season but also a safe rule for daily life. A good football player or basketball player should always concentrate his attention on the ball and the players. A good student must be alert, awake and attentive, watching the teacher and listening to his or her words. A good Catholic in the Church must be physically and mentally alert, watching the altar and actively participating in the prayers and songs. Like the Roman God Janus with two faces, one looking at the past year and the other looking into future, Christians during the Advent season are to look at the past event of the first coming of Jesus into the world and expectantly look forward to his second coming in glory. The Emeritus Pope Benedict the XVI, said, "Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

Advent is a time of waiting and hoping, of renewing our trust in God's merciful love and care, and of reflecting on the several comings (advents) of Christ in our lives. His first coming was his birth; the incarnation; the second coming would be at the end of human history. There is a third type of coming in our everyday lives, in the Sacraments.

In the midst of darkness – darkness of unemployment, violence, protests, war, abject poverty, natural and man-made disasters, anti-social and deviant behaviours and so on- advent helps us to see the light of Christ. The Light that came 2000 years ago has not yet fully come in the lives of many. It has only come as a glimpse of what can be. Every Christmas reignites the light within and enables us to see a ray of light in the tunnel of darkness. Hence, the fulfilment of the promises back in History has become a new promise and expectation. And we hearken to the prophecy of Jeremiah again, there will be justice rendered to every individual and the nation. Jesus calls us to pay attention to the many "signs" of God's love in the midst of every trial and challenge we encounter. God's Spirit of humility and wisdom enables us to realize God's saving work in the Advent of our lives. These four weeks are a microcosm of the Advent that is the very entirety of our lives as Christians: to make ourselves ready to "stand before the Son of Man" through lives of love, mercy and justice. We continue our journey in the light of Christ with hope! (Sources duly acknowledged)

This is a story of four candles lit in a room. The ambiance was so soft you could hear them talking. The first one said, "I am PEACE, however, nobody can keep me lit. I believe I will go out." It's flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely.

The second one says, "I am FAITH. Most of all I am no longer indispensable, so it does not make any sense that I stay lit any longer." When it finished talking a breeze softly blew on it putting it out.

Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn. "I am LOVE. I have not gotten the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer it goes out.

Suddenly a child entered the room and saw three candles not burning. "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit till the end." Saying this the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle said, "Don't be afraid, while I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles, I am HOPE."

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles. The flame of Hope should never go out of our life and that each of us can maintain Hope, Love, Peace and Faith always. Author: Unknown

Let us hope against hope!

God's blessings
Fr. Vince

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT 2021

As we countdown the days to Christmas, we pray that by meditating on God's Word in these daily Advent and Christmas reflections, we may be graced with moments of silence to ponder in your heart (cf. Lk 2:19) the many "blessings" in our life—inspiring us in our call to "blessedness" (that is, "holiness") where true happiness is gained (cf. Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, 64). BLESSED is a book that would help us with the reflections from the beginning of Advent (28 November 2021) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2022). Available at the Piety Store. May I request you to join the group reflections on **Wednesdays after the morning Mass or Wednesdays evening 7pm** at St Madeleine's centre. A spiritual preparation for Christmas will fill us with ineffable joy and peace. Please contact Pauline 0407 417 039 or Deacon Michael Tan 0419 279 743 for any queries. Fr. Vince

The Sunday Gospel

Come join us via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am for an hour to pray and discuss the coming Sunday's gospel. If you would like to know more about the gospels, what it can mean to your life, pray with others, or just make new friends, we would love you to join us. For more info and Zoom details,. contact Careyanne on 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com

Sacramental Program - Holy Communion

Given the easing of restrictions for Churches, we are commencing our preparation sessions for Holy Communion in November. Preparation Sessions: **Sundays, 14, 21 and 28 Nov. at 2.45pm for a 3pm start or 4pm.** Each child is to attend with one parent. Please contact Sandra for further details and to confirm your attendance. Mob 0410 587 735 stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

RCIA

The Community of Faithful (Church) invites those unbaptized adults seeking to embrace catholic faith and individuals desiring to become full pledged members of the Catholic Community and even the baptised Catholics aspiring to enhance the Christian life to join the RCIA programme. For any query contact Fr Vincent or the parish office.

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MADS

Christmas hampers 2021 – Plans are underway to hold our Hamper mass at St Madeleine's December 12th. Baabayn Inc is organizing Christmas celebrations for First Nation families across Mt Druitt and would appreciate contributions of toys for older children 8+.

Laudato Si' Part 2: **Judge** - chapter 3 and 4, Pope Francis examines the ecological crisis from a biblical perspective. Pope Francis talks about the idea of an integral ecology. This is the idea that we as humans need to come to understand our place in the world as integral to creation. This is ultimately the goal of the work of the Dicastery and what it means to have an ecological conversion.
Our journey to be an **Earthcare parish** – living Laudato Si' tip for this week is to consider participating in the ecological conversion conference April 25th next year www.iiec.org.au

Advent Day of Prayer

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: 11 December 2021
Where: St Madeleine Sophie Barat Church
Time: 9.30 – 1pm and on.
Numbers limited. Covid safe.
Contact: Careyanne Moylan 0438791813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com

ST MADS CARE GROUP

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

ST MADS ROSARY

Join us to pray the rosary led by Kay Brooks and Lydia Ceccato. They will lead us in prayer after mass on Thursdays and continue on zoom on Monday nights at 7pm.
Zoom meeting ID 840 2707 2956
Please join with us in growing our faith community.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you so much for your ongoing support, which has been very vital to keep our Parish going strong. You can drop off the envelopes at the parish office or you can do it electronically to:
Account Name : Kenthurst Catholic
Church BSB : 067950
Account Number : 00000388

Parishioners wishing to donate or pledge their giving via direct debit, please pick up the form at the church and submit to Fr Vincent after completion

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = $1062.75
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = $1154.00
Loose = $899.05
Credit cards/Direct Debit Ave weekly= $2087.50

Thank you for your generosity!

PIETY SHOP

Are you looking for a gift for a special person for Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism & Birthdays?
Come and have a look in the piety shop
We have an ever changing array of gifts and religious items .
Special orders are welcome too .
We are open after every weekend mass.
Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400 for any special requests.

COLUMBIAN CALENDARS AND MAGELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

The 2022 Calendars and cards now available for purchase in piety shop
Calendars $10 and cards $7

BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 4 December at 4:30pm** in Function centre
Pease 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 Healing of the sick
Jennifer Burgess , Eduard Affolter, Margaret Doyle

Prayer for the departed

As said in 1st John chapter 5—verse 15 You're the omniscient God who we know hears all prayers. So, we pray for the soul(s) of our departed brother(s)/sister(s) that You, oh Lord may nourish and take care of him/her/them in Heaven. You encourage us to ask and that it shall be given to us and so, we've asked and we know our request has been given. We thank You for providing for the deceased when he/she was alive and for sheltering us—also to be present in this prayer. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Love always, in the name of Jesus. Amen

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 Shop: 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:
Anastasia Abdipranoto
Susie Lee

Sacramental Coordinator
Sandra De Nardi

St Madeleine's Primary School
Phone: 9654 6751
Principal: Mrs Barbara Young

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

Saint : Francis Xavier
Feast Day: 3 December

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honour before him.
Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope
From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he laboured to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malayans, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India. Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy. *- con't- https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-francis-xavier*

Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish

Kindergarten 2022

We are still accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2022 and welcome your application. Please check the school's website www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au to download the application and forward it to the school office as soon as possible. Come and be part of our beautiful community!

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course 2022

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will begin early next year in February. For more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at https://officeforworship.org.au/

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*:

ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence. This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens. To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal.

Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

Bishop's Christmas Appeal
November and December 2021

No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas. CatholicCare's Houses to Homes provides hope for vulnerable women and children facing abuse and hardship. Your kind donation today to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child.
Please give generously, via the Bishop's Christmas appeal giving envelopes or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

New Laudato Si Circle November Walk

Come join us for a walk and morning tea for all the family. Young and not so young. Walk all or just a part.
What You Will See: Tall trees, ferny gullies and wildflowers. This walk follows a route through the significant bushland corridor in Fred Caterson and Fullers Road Reserves between Castle Hill and Glenhaven. The area is rich in diverse local flora and birdlife.
When: 27 November, 9 am.
Distance: 500 metres
Grade: Easy
Time: 20 mins
We'll meet at Timber Grove near Linksley Ave. to Citadel Crescent Reserve and have prayer, scones tea together. Then return. **Free.**
RSVP for catering: Suzanne 0410 936 108; Careyanne 0438 791 813, Sue 0432 716 577

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are opening their doors for private prayer, Reconciliation and for the celebration of Mass and sacraments such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact your local parish to check Mass and liturgy times and the COVID-Safe arrangements in place.
Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are still available on the Diocesan website https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

'Office for Safeguarding offering online training to keep our parishes safe

The Office for Safeguarding is providing an opportunity for all of us to develop our awareness and skills in ensuring our parishes are safe and welcoming places for all. The team are currently offering accompanied online training courses throughout November. If you are interested or have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email our Safeguarding office on safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org or maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.

Diocese of Parramatta launches Plenary Council resource website

A new website provides resources for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta to stay involved in the Plenary Council, which is exploring what the future of our Church should look like. Beyond the First Assembly of the Plenary Council, visit parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/ to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more as we move into a time of prayer, reflection, maturation and development.

Young people of the Diocese – we are with you

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website parracatholic.org/withyou contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country on which we worship

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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
27/28 Nov	WELCOMERS		Brendan Ford Carol & Terry Scott	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina Lidia Ceccato
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo		Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Sandra Tabone Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers		Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donate by Teresa Capadi; arrange by E.Salim		ALTAR LINEN	Sonaldi Arnold
04/05 Dec	WELCOMERS		Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina Belinda Da Ruos
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Gerry McArdle Nigel Saunders	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima		Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi	Tiago Gregory Hannah Tran
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Sonali Arnold		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donate and arrange by Diane Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Sonaldi Arnold