



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

5th December 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
 Baruch 5: 1-9
 Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11
 Luke 3: 1-6

“We can see hope in the midst of hopelessness. We can see peace in the midst of chaos. We have a hope that the world does not have. We can see clearly that all things work together for the good of them that love Him and are called according to His purpose.”—

Priscilla Shirer



Advent is such a joyful time as we wait for God in our world and in our lives. We sense this joy in the first two readings for today, from the Prophet Baruch and from the Letter to the Philippians. Baruch tells us that Jerusalem will be named by God the peace of justice. Baruch looks into the future, much as we might, and longs for that time when there is peace because justice rules throughout all the earth. If we are not longing for such a time, then it will be difficult for us to understand the dreams and longings of the exiled people of Israel. We have to be positive and filled with hope as we hear the emergence of the omicron variant which seems to infuse an element of uncertainty and fear in us. The prophetic words of Baruch give us the hope for a better future even though the end of the pandemic is not in sight.

Advent is a time to renew our longings. We can desire God’s presence in our lives and desire a good life for ourselves and for others. We can hope for cures for all the deadly diseases of our time. We can all desire a better economy for ourselves and for others. We can desire that all children who suffer will be freed from their suffering and know peace, joy and delight. These types of hopes and desires help us understand the longing of our spiritual ancestors to return to their own land and worship their own God.

Baruch looks into the future and sees that day and rejoices in it. He imagines Jerusalem as once more the centre of the world and filled with people who love God. How different our own world would be if each one of us yearned for God, sought God with all heart and soul and sought always to help others.

The Letter to the Philippians tells us of the author’s longing for the good of those who have become followers of Jesus. He wants them to be able to discern what is truly of value. Again, we can ponder how different our world would be if everyone longed only for those realities that truly have value! Here comes the Prophet John the Baptist inviting us to prepare the way that our longings come real and true. He invites us to take a U turn in our lives. We should look at ourselves and regret what we should regret: our sins, our meanness, our minor faults and failings, our injustices and hurt of others.

“Oh, well, soap only works when it is applied.” A soap manufacturer and a pastor were walking together down a street in a large city. The soap manufacturer casually said, “The gospel you preach hasn’t done much good, has it? Just observe. There is still a lot of wickedness in the world, and a lot of wicked people, too!” The pastor made no reply until they passed a dirty little child making mud pies in the gutter. Seizing the opportunity, the pastor said, “I see that soap hasn’t done much good in the world either; for there is much dirt still here, and many dirty people are still around.” The soap man said, “Oh, well, soap only works when it is applied.” And the pastor said, “Exactly! So it is with the gospel.”



Let us not be foolish to believe that our longings will not be fulfilled and it will never happen. Let us not forget that the longing of our Lord is that humanity is fully alive. Hence, as we turn towards Him with trust and a repentant heart, we will be able to experience ineffable joy and peace. May our hearts be one with His in this time of Advent and may His Divine Mercy draw the world to Himself.

A teacher in New York decided to honour each of her seniors in high school by telling them the difference they each made. First, she told each of them how they had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters that read, “Who I Am Makes a Difference.” She also gave each of the students three more ribbons and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. Later that day a junior executive went in to see his boss, who had been noted as being kind of a grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down and he told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon and took the blue ribbon and placed it right on his boss’s jacket above his heart. As he left, he said, “Would you take this extra ribbon and pass it on by honouring somebody else?” That night the boss came home to his 14-year-old son and sat him down. He said, “The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honour. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honour with this ribbon and I thought about you. I want to honour you. My days are really hectic and when I come home, I don’t pay a lot of attention to you. Tonight, I just wanted to let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You’re a great kid and I love you!” The startled boy started to sob and sob, and he couldn’t stop crying. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, “I was planning on committing suicide tomorrow, Dad, because I didn’t think you loved me. Now I know you care. This is the happiest day I’ve known.” The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch but made sure to let all his employees know that they made a difference. And the young boy and his classmates learned a valuable lesson. Who you are does make a difference! (Anonymous)



United in prayer
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



SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MADS

"Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace" will be the theme for the Jan. 1 World Peace day message from the Pope. 2022 is a big year for Catholic Mission, it is the 100th anniversary of the Pontifical Mission Societies, the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (as well as the beatification of its founder, Pauline Jaricot), and the 400th anniversary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. More at the Catholic Mission website.



Laudato Si' Part 3: ACT- in the last two chapters, Pope Francis calls on large organisations, politics and companies to make changes to their way of operating in order to help improve the health of the planet. Finally, we as families and individuals are called to action in our own lives, in the decision that we make and the way we interact with creation. This letter has become a living and breathing document, where people around the world are inspired by the call of Pope Francis to make changes in their lives to help people and the planet. Our journey to be an **Earthcare** parish Laudato Si' tip this week is to green your home or office with more plants.



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.

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 Function centre
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) = \$1158.40
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$2201.00
Loose = \$630.55
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

Calling for volunteers at ST MADS

We are looking for volunteers for Eucharistic Ministers,, Junior Ministers Collectors , Readers and Minister of the Alter to help celebrate this Christmas Please write your name in the Spreadsheet at the back of the church. Thank you



BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 8 January 2022 at 4:30pm** in 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 :
George Hajje, George Moit, Adel Abraham

For the dearly departed:
George Cascun, Josephine Cortis, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahida Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Betty & Mary Merhi, Joe Galea.

For healing of the sick :

**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 Shop: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Aaron Cauchi

Welcomes 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



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.stmadeleineinsekenthurst.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/>



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.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2021

We are calling for our parish community to help raise much needed funds and awareness as part of our 2021 Christmas Appeal

The high cost of living, stagnant wages and unsteady jobs can push anyone into crisis. Especially the year we have had in 2021. 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.

A Leaving Collection will be held on weekend Masses 11 & 12 December 2021

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 processed and sent via email.

We thank you in advance for your support

fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au



Saint : Nicholas

Feast Day: 6 December



The absence of the "hard facts" of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honour him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colourful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries. - Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus —further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-nicholas>



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

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.

Synod of Bishops – Have your say

What would you say to Pope Francis if you had 10 minutes? Catholics across the world are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops. Find out how to send your message at parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops

'The Well' offering on-demand spiritual nourishment

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with. Our Pastoral Formation – Mission Enhancement Team have produced a series of workshops exploring synodality and what Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality means for the life of the Diocese. Visit www.thewell.org.au today.

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal is open

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta remains open and committed to assisting anyone with enquiries regarding marriage annulments. Interviews are being conducted via telephone and Zoom in response to COVID-19. Please contact the Tribunal office on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.



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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
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
11/12 Dec	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino		Belinda Da Ruos Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves		Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Mary Sammut Heidi Harb	Belinda Da Ruos Tony Hooper	David Hall-O'Dwyer	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang Monica & Dom Bruggeling	
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS			CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS			ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper