



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

12th December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:1 4-18a
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 10-18

“A TRUE JOY IN LIFE SHOULD BE KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE TOUCHED THE HEART OF ANOTHER HUMAN BEING” – Steven Aitchison



Third Sunday of advent is celebrated as ‘Rejoice’ Sunday. What do people want from life? The one invariable answer would be “I just want to be happy.” There is a common belief that happiness is something that can be achieved and held on to it. We look forward to that time in which we can finally be happy, but it continually recedes. We want to get to the top of the Wheel of Life and stay there. When in high school, we think, “If I can just graduate then I will be happy.” Graduation, however, is not fulfilling, and we decide “If I go to college then life will be better.” But a college education does not bring happiness. Maybe it will come upon finding the right job, or getting married, or having children, or retiring. The goal remains elusive. The “happiness that lasts” is never found because it is actually impossible to get happy and stay happy. If life is based on obtaining happiness, then we will always fall short because life is always changing just as a wheel turns.

A person can be happy merely because things are going their way or when their surroundings are peaceful but when chaos arises in their lives, they lose their happiness and are sad. That is because happiness is conditional and temporary.

There is the story about a man known as Joe the Farmer. Every day, on his way to the farm, he would make it a point to drop by the Church at exactly eight o’clock in the morning. In less than a minute, he can be seen leaving the church. The priest noticed his daily routine, and asked him about it one day. Joe said, “Father, I just drop by every day to say hello to my friend. I look at him. He looks at me. Then I tell him, ‘Hi, Jess! This is your friend, Joe. Have a great day!’ Then I go.”

One day, Joe got sick, and was brought to the hospital. He had no family, and so no one visited him. But the nurses were surprised that Joe provided joy and laughter to his fellow patients. His humour and cheerful spirit were just contagious. A nurse asked him: “Joe, what is the secret of your happiness?” He replied, “Well, it is because of my friend who comes to visit me every day.” The nurse was surprised. “But you have no visitors. You have no family and friends.” But Joe insisted, “Yes, I have a friend. He comes here every day at eight o’clock in the morning. He looks at me, and says, ‘Hey, Joe. This is your friend, Jess. I just dropped by to say hello!’” Joe had no family. He had no money. He had no health.

But he was happy, because he had a friend, Jesus, who visits him every day. That was the secret of his happiness. And his happiness makes him more kind and loving towards others. This is exactly the meaning of St. Paul’s exhortation: “Rejoice in the Lord always!”



The world is in chaos at present with the pandemic, economic crisis, unemployment, homelessness, organized violence, natural calamities and tragedies leaving billions of families in devastation. There is so much bad news every day. What is there to rejoice about? I am certain many people share such a feeling and sentiment. The readings of this Sunday lift our spirit high with a positive vibe showing how God transforms our despair into joy. Isaiah the prophet describes the desert of oppression transformed into a plain abloom with abundant flowers. God “ransomed” the Israelites and crowned them with everlasting joy. He did it for John as he sat in the darkness of Herod’s prison. Bottom line, God is always present at the heart of all things no matter what is happening. Even in the worst of times God is present. If we can be centered in God, that which is Greater, then we become strong and joy sets in us.

Rejoicing in the Lord means two things. First, it is an attitude of trust in the midst of life’s difficulties and troubles. Secondly, it should manifest itself in acts of kindness as the farmer in the story did even in the midst of his ailment. St Paul says, “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God” (Phil 4:6). Again, St Paul says, “Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.” St. John the Baptist in the gospel calls us to action. When asked by his listeners what they ought to do, John the Baptist mentioned examples of acts of kindness: giving clothes to those who have none, avoiding extortion and cheating and being of better service to others. The centre and the cause of rejoicing is Jesus Christ in whom we draw strength and power to deal with life’s problems and difficulties we may encounter. (sources acknowledged)



God’s blessings
Fr. Vince

PARISH NEWS



PRAYER AT ST MADS

Advent and Christmas reflections	Please join the group reflection on Wednesdays after morning Mass and Wednesday evening 7 pm at St Madeline's function centre. contact Pauline 0407 417 039 or Deacon Michael Tan 0419 279 743
The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday Morning at 10.30 am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
RCIA	For enquires contact Fr Vincent or Parish Office
St Mads Care Group	Provide parish support and care such as meals, transport, shopping and assistance to members of our parish. Contact Bernadette 0418 248 256
St Mads Rosary	Thursday after morning mass & Monday night at 7pm Via Zoom Zoom meeting ID 840 2707 2956 Contact Lydia Ceccato & Kay Brook
Baptism Preparation	First Saturday of the month in Function centre. Ring /email Parish office for booking 9654 2260 (Tuesday—Fri 10am—4 pm or stmads@yahoo.com.au) Next session : Saturday 8 Jan 2022



CHRISTMAS 2021

Tuesday 21 Dec	7pm	Second Rite of Reconciliation
Friday 24 Dec	5pm 5:30pm	Christmas carols Family Christmas Eve Mass
Friday 24 Dec	8:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Friday 24 Dec	11:30pm 12 Midnight	Christmas carols Christmas Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 Dec	8am & 10am	Christmas Day Masses
Sunday 26 Dec	8am, 10am & 5:30pm	Usual Weekend Masses
Friday 31 Dec New Year's Eve	11:30 pm 12 Midnight	Eucharistic Adoration Mass



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) = \$1240.90
2nd Collection (for Parish)
 Envelopes = \$1074.05
 Loose = \$849.85
 Credit cards/Direct Debit Ave weekly= \$2087.50

Thank you for your generosity!

No morning mass from Tuesday 28 December— Friday 31 December 2021

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MADS

Thank you to all who have contributed to our hamper mass this weekend. The Sounds of Christmas from Asia Pacific project is a multilingual and intercultural Christmas song project, showcasing the diverse and creative multicultural and multilingual communities in Sydney. You can buy the album from Parramatta Cathedral gift shop. <https://linktr.ee/SoundsChristmasAsiaPacific> Please consider supporting our sister parish Cailaco in Timor Leste through the BETTER Christmas appeal <https://bettertimor.org/donate/> "A deep connection with the Timorese, and my desire to help, allowed me to believe in a BETTER future through education" Ornella Byak Founder BETTER.



"the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise" LS 12
 Our journey to be an **Earthcare** parish Laudato Si' tip this week is to consider starting a reverse Advent calendar where each day you set aside an item in a box that is given to those in need.

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 Altar to help celebrate this Christmas
 Please write your name in the Spreadsheet at the back of the church.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased :

George Hajje, George Moit, Adel Abraham

For the dearly departed:

Mila Lovric, Pero Lovric, Portelli & Buttigieg Family, Philomena Beresford, George Cas-cun, 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

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 : John of the Cross

Feast Day: 14 December

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.



Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. *can't*
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross>



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.stmadeleineeskenthurst.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/>



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



St Madeleine Family Group's

Thank you for your generosity and support in participating in our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Your kind donations are very much appreciated in assisting Hawkesbury's Helping Hands, Baabayn Inc Emerton and Holy Family Parish Emerton.

Thank You



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

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org), on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta.

Thank You for Supporting CatholicCare's Houses to Homes

Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your donation will help CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to provide a loving sanctuary for young mothers in crisis. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

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 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.



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
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	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS			ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper
18/20 Dec	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell		Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS			Elizabeth Cauchi	Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donate By Hills family Funerals Arrange by: Maureen, Mari & Pauline		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper