



# St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

**11th December 2022**

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

## Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. Mother Teresa

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last Wednesday, we had our clergy advent recollection at Mulgoa. The delegates from the diocese of Parramatta for the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Council including our Bishop Vincent and a religious sister and a lay person shared with us their personal experiences of the journey. Their experiences revolved around a few key words such as Listen, Respect and Openness for the growth of the community of faithful. The Plenary council has outlined 10 decrees after the second assembly and in accordance with canon 446 of the Code of Canon Law, the decrees are sent to the Vatican for the review by the Apostolic See. Sue Martin was part of this journey and is more than happy to share her experiences and the decrees as well for our understanding and reflection. It is scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm. May I therefore encourage (expect) you to be a part of this session so that we will be able to plan the actions for our parish once the decrees are promulgated.



*Congratulations to the Year 6 students of St Madeleine's who graduated last Thursday. We wish them all a good future and pray that they can make a difference as they relish the adventure and live the dream of their life. May God be the centre of their lives!*

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of joy. Our Eucharistic liturgy today echoes this joy.

Too often in the past, Christianity has been presented as a rather grim and joyless affair, confronting us with guilt and failure. In an interview he gave a short time before his death, Terry Wogan, the well-known Radio and TV broadcaster, described his experience of growing up in Catholic Ireland in these depressing terms: 'There were hundreds of churches, all these missions breathing fire and brimstone, telling you how easy it was to sin, how you'd be in hell.' Sadly, Terry's perception of Holy Catholic Ireland would have been shared by many of his contemporaries. However, it is a distorted perception based on the 'hell-fire sermons' of zealous but misguided preachers.



Today's gospel reading shows us that John the Baptist, too, for all his greatness – 'a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen' (Mt 11:11) – and zeal, may also have been misguided about Jesus and his message. When he heard what Jesus was doing, he was disturbed and confused, so he sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the promised Messiah 'or have we got to wait for someone else?' (Mt 11:3). The response of Jesus is to point to the incontestable evidence of his healing and life-giving ministry: 'Tell John what you hear and see' (Mt 11:4). His actions prove that he is the Messiah foretold by Isaiah, the one who embodies God's healing love.

The reality of sin and failure is not the centerpiece of the Christian story, but rather the victorious love of God who forgives, heals and makes all things new. And it is the experience of this love that is the source of our joy. But what is this joy that is at the heart of the Christian message? We think of joy very much in association with youthfulness, freshness, innocence. And it is true that joy keeps us young. A joyful person always seems youthful. Like the kiss of the sun on a flower, or a smile lighting up a child's face, joy transforms. People who are joyful transform those around them. Joy is contagious. In the presence of joyful people, our hearts become lighter and the world around us seems so much brighter.

However, Christian joy must not be confused with the kind of superficial cheerfulness we often come across in our social gatherings. It is not the false hilarity of those who choose to ignore the reality of suffering in the world around them, or avoid pain in their own lives. In the words of John Catoir, 'Joy is not the absence of pain. It is the awareness of God's loving presence within you.' And this awareness is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Christian joy is quite compatible with sorrow and even with anger. As Christians we are called to share not only in the passion of Christ, but also in his passions – his joy and sorrow, his frustrations. These are the passions of those who are alive with the gospel, those who come to know from personal experience that 'it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life' (Prayer of St Francis).

The joy that Christ brings us is a joy that is often found in the midst of pain and suffering. The most joyful people I have come across in my life as a missionary priest were those who had been profoundly touched by the pain of the world. I give just one example among many. Several years ago, an Irish Lay Missionary, Barbara McNulty, worked among the poor in Brazil. She wrote a memorable account of her experience for an article in The Tablet, describing how she found joy in the heart of suffering. 'It is the paradox of joy that it is at its most significant in association with suffering. I worked for many years with the sick and the dying in a place where one would expect to find despair and depression; yet because of the warmth of the love all around me I found laughter and hope'. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited, like Barbara McNulty, to share the joy Jesus offers us, the joy we discover when we reach out to others in love. (Fr Michael McCabe SMA)

God's blessings  
Fr. Vince

*Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, a community of faith and service, strives to be a witness for Christ's love far and wide, reflecting the humility and wisdom of St Madeleine, the Patroness of the parish.*

# PARISH NEWS



## PRAYER AT ST MADS

The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30 am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
Prayer Group	Wednesday after morning Mass at 10am in the St Madeleine centre: Explanation of Sunday Mass Gospel, Pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
St Mad's Book Club	To register contact Careyanne on <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
RCIA	For enquires contact Fr Vincent or Parish Office
St Mads Rosary	Thursday after morning Mass & Monday at 7pm Via Zoom: Zoom meeting ID 840 2707 2956 Contact Kay Brooks & Lydia Ceccato 0400 372 561
Baptism Preparation	First Saturday of the month in the St Madeleine centre: Ring/email Parish office for booking 9654 2260 (Tues-Fri 10am-4 pm or <a href="mailto:stmads@yahoo.com.au">stmads@yahoo.com.au</a> )



## CHOIR PRACTISE & MEETING FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Calling all singers and musicians! Help us make our Christmas Masses special.

A Music Ministry practise/meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 7pm

The practise/meeting will be held in church.

For more information or to let us know you're coming along, please contact Selina Calleia on 0416 265 233 or [s.calleia@hotmail.com](mailto:s.calleia@hotmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve: Saturday, 24 December**

5.30pm Carols followed by

Family Mass

8pm Mass

11.45pm Carols followed by

Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day:**

Sunday, 25 December

8am and 10am Mass



There will be no evening Mass

A **Communion Service** will be held each day from Tuesday, 27 December to 30 December at 9.15am

**New Years Eve: Saturday, 31 December**

5.30pm Mass

11.30pm Thanksgiving Eucharistic Adoration followed by New Year Mass

**New Year's Day: Sunday, 1 January**

8am and 10am Mass

There will be no evening 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 weekend Masses or 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**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,104.05

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1,012 Loose = \$900.60

Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,874.23

## BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL—THANK YOU!

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care thank you for your generosity, and compassionate support over the last few weeks. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised **\$3,301.65** which will enable Catholic Care to provide practical and emotional support for homeless people and help them to find a place to call home. Thank you for stretching out your hand in solidarity and love to our brothers and sisters in need. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/)

**We welcome our Marian students to the 5.30pm Mass!**

Marian students will be providing the music for our 5.30pm evening Mass this weekend

## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

THANK YOU for your Christmas Hampers, coming up this Thursday is our parish dialogue on the recent Plenary Council, I will share some insights into listening to the Spirit over the past four years which culminated in the 8 Decree's. My favourite Decree is 1 and 8, what is your favourite Decree? Come and learn more on Thursday. Our parish has also contributed to the Continental Stage of the Bishops Synod which is the global discernment, a walking together with everyone, The Holy Spirit is the prime guide of this synodal process. Something to listen to Frances Tilley speaking in Advent on Australian Women Preach. This week is also the Baabayn Christmas pool party sponsored by our parish

## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

**For the dearly departed:** Pablito Corpuz, Francesco Piperata, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Joe Farrugia, Ky Frendo, Tony Mangion, Geoff Burcham, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahida Hajje, Betty & Mary Merhi, George Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Abraham family, Robert Alberti, George Cascun, Shirley Swinnerton, Nedina A Ratliff, Rosina Mezzagosto, Mary Cumbo, Salvatore Mercieca

**Please pray for the sick:** Sofia Viizzo, Margaret Martin, Antonia Desanti, and Jennifer Burgess



## 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:** Carl Mathias

**Welcomers Coordinator:**

**Safeguarding:** Suzanne Kingston-Hunt

## PARISH TEAM

### Parish Priest

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

### Deacon

Michael Tan

### Parish Secretaries

Sandra De Nardi

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: Dr Gavin Hays

## 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 2nd and 4th Sunday  
at 11:20am  
(Must make a booking)

## PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

*We stand before You,  
Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are God's beloved children:  
may our journey together  
be marked by humble listening,  
courageous speech, and lively hope.  
Let us find in You our unity  
as we seek to do what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and  
time,  
in the communion of the Father and  
the Son, forever and ever.  
**AMEN***

Adapted from the original

## PIETY SHOP

Calendars \$10  
Christmas Cards \$7  
Christmas Candles \$5  
available in the piety stall



Contact Sandra Tabone  
on 0413 272 400 for any special requests

### EVERY VOLUNTEER

in our parish must provide current contact details by completing a form found online (use the QR Code).

Copies available in the Church.

We URGENTLY need PowerPoint operators for our Masses and more singers

We URGENTLY need Cleaners to help with dusting, vacuuming the Church, cleaning the doors -please contact the parish office

Please also contact the parish office if you can help as a reader, welcomer, musician, or with providing flowers.



## ADVENT 2022

### Prayer Reflection

Every Wednesday 7pm

in the St Madeleine Centre

Facilitator: Rev Deacon Michael Tan

### 2nd Rite of Reconciliation (Confession)

7pm Tuesday, 13 December

7pm Thursday, 15 December

Reflection on The Plenary Council  
with Sue Martin



## Our Retired Parishioners Lunch held on Tuesday, 6 December



### St John of the Cross 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. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49—a life short, but full. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day>

## Vinnies Christmas Appeal



### Dear Parishioners

This year we welcome your support in donating to the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal.

You will assist in two ways.

**A collection will take place at the end of each Mass this weekend.**

**At a local level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and longer term support services for people in NSW who require specialised care.**

**St Vincent de Paul told followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive, and none so poor that they have nothing to give.**

**Your support for this appeal is greatly appreciated by ourselves and the recipients. The support addresses poverty and disadvantage in our communities. May we move towards a Christmas of being watchful in faith and hope filled for our community and the world.**

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



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# ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

<b>10/11 December</b>		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Corrie Sebire	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Teresa Capaldi Maureen Burford	Joseph Spina
	<b>MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR</b>	Heidi Bou-Harb	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	<b>READERS</b>	Margaret Mieczkowski Justin Sebire	Catherine Diekman Maria Baldi	Sandra Bonello Karla Quinn	Lidia Ceccato Frederick Kyngdon
	<b>JNR MINISTERS</b>	Emerson Sebire		Kerstin Grima	
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	Parish Team		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Dianne Bennett		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Rosa Carlino

<b>17/18 December</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Sandra Tabone Zakia Touma	Joseph Spina
	<b>MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR</b>	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	<b>READERS</b>	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	<b>JNR MINISTERS</b>				
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>				
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	Tony Hooper & Parish Team		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	WEDDING		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Rosa Carlino