



## St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU  
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

**18th December 2022**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-24

### **Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make change**

Barbara Mikulski

A pastor tells the story of a worried mother who phoned the church office in the afternoon before the annual Christmas program to say that her small son, who was to play the role of Joseph in the Christmas Pageant, had a cold and had gone to bed on doctor's orders. "It's too late now to get another Joseph," the director of the play said. "We'll just have to write him out of the script." And they did! Joseph just disappeared! And only a few of those who watched that night realized that Joseph was missing. Joseph is often forgotten. But today's gospel is centered on Joseph.



Joseph probably had a sense of where his life was headed and what his hopes and dreams were for Mary, his intended wife. In no time, all his dreams were crushed down as he found out the pregnancy of Mary. He might have found himself at the edge of his life. He was petrified, confused, and depressed. But he did not extinguish the light of faith burning inside of him. In a dream, the angel cleared his doubts and asked him to take Mary as his wife.

Now, at first glance, it might seem that Joseph's life is put back in order. He knows what he is to do; he can simply move on and be the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary. More than that, he had no clue of what the new life entailed as to his personal relationship with Mary and his God's son.

Joseph would find that his life was not simply interrupted by this change; his life was forever changed. It became a life that had to be rooted in faith, not just a general faith in God, but a faith that would always accept that God would be there to assist him, to help him. Never would he be a complete master of his own life as we often like to picture us to be in our own lives.

While what happened to Joseph in its specifics –being called to be the guardian of the Messiah –is clearly not part of our experience, most of us find at some point in life that our plans for life are drastically changed. It might be through the loss of a job, sickness, financial misfortune, divorce, or an unplanned pregnancy, trouble with children, or death that turns our world upside down, and it usually doesn't seem to have anything holy about it.

This is precisely where this story of Joseph and the life he lived from this point on can guide us. We can look at the events which involuntarily change our lives as gross interruptions that must be reversed, refused. We can address them with stoicism, and not grumble about them but quietly have the attitude that life has ripped us off. Or we can look at these events and ask "Where is God in all of this? What might be God calling me to do with this situation so that it becomes an opportunity for Him to act through me?"

Might the situation call us to re-examine our values, to re-prioritize what is really important in life? Might the event be a wake-up call to become more attuned to what it means to be a Christian person? Might the event be calling us outside of ourselves to be a person for others?

*There was a woman who lived down the street. On the day she and her husband signed the papers for their house, he went home and had a major nervous breakdown; after that point he was delusional and interpersonally non-responsive. Five months later she gave birth to a child with severe mental disabilities. How did she react? She kept them both at home, because she thought they needed her love more than what an institution could give them, and she eventually would take in a mentally handicapped adult who had no place to stay. She saw in her situation that she was called to make a difference in a way she hadn't planned. My family and others as well, saw her as a light in the darkness, and we learned from our interaction with her and her husband and daughter the dignity of people who were different from us.*

No one of us is called simply to exist in this world as some neutral force that will not affect the world around us. (It is impossible to do that. By our very existence, we take up space, consume resources, and affect others whether we want to or not.)

The question then is, "What difference will I make in the world? Will I use not just my time, talents, and treasures to make God's presence known, but will I also use the events of my life to achieve that end?" A simple carpenter from Nazareth did, and it made all the difference in the world- Modified and excerpted from Jeffrey M. Kemper



We can choose to be affected by the world or we can choose to affect the world.

God's blessings

Fr. Vince

# 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> )



## 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

## 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).

## CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

**FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**

Please arrive at Church at 5.30pm  
Saturday 24th December

Thank you to all who generously gave for our Hamper Appeal: this year we assisted Baabayn Inc Emerton and Holy Family Parish Emerton  
Thanks to Sue Martin and Pierre Coppini!



## 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) = \$1,116.80  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$1,657 Loose = \$1,077.35  
Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,874.23

## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

Thank you to Marian College Social Justice team for making the lolly bags for the Baabayn Christmas party and Carmel from our Social Justice group providing fruit for the fantastic pool party for the kids in the Baabayn homework club it was a great afternoon. The Laudato Si' movement has some suggestions for a Laudato Si' Christmas, to think ethically about the gifts you give, to think locally for the Christmas meal you prepare, just enjoy time with loved ones over the Season and to think about gifting Mother Earth with a reduced footprint of less waste, water and energy <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/four-steps-sustainable-christmas-en-news/>

## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



**For the dearly departed:** Filiciana N Sabellano, useppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Olive Burns, Ortensia Russo, ablito Corpuz, Francesco Piperata, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Joe Farrugia, Ky Frendo, Tony Mangion, Geoff Burcham, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahide Hajje, Betty & Mary Merhi, George Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Abraham family, Robert Alberti, George Cascun, 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)

### St Peter Canisius

21 December



Peter was one of the most important figures in the Catholic Reformation in Germany. He played such a key role that he has often been called the "second apostle of Germany," in that his life parallels the earlier work of Boniface. Although Peter once accused himself of idleness in his youth, he could not have been idle too long, for at the age of 19 he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards he met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced Peter so much that he joined the recently formed Society of Jesus. After his ordination in 1546, he became widely known for his editions of the writings of St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great. Besides this reflective literary bent, Peter had a zeal for the apostolate. He could often be found visiting the sick or imprisoned, even when his assigned duties in other areas were more than enough to keep most people fully occupied. In 1547, Peter attended several sessions of the Council of Trent, whose decrees he was later assigned to implement. After a brief teaching assignment at the Jesuit college at Messina, Peter was entrusted with the mission to Germany—from that point on his life's work. He taught in several universities and was instrumental in establishing many colleges and seminaries. He wrote a catechism that explained the Catholic faith in a way that common people could understand—a great need of that age. Renowned as a popular preacher, Peter packed churches with those eager to hear his eloquent proclamation of the gospel. He had great diplomatic ability, often serving as a reconciler between disputing factions. In his letters—filling eight volumes—one finds words of wisdom and counsel to people in all walks of life. At times he wrote unprecedented letters of criticism to leaders of the Church—yet always in the context of a loving, sympathetic concern. At 70, Peter suffered a paralytic seizure, but he continued to preach and write with the aid of a secretary, until his death in his hometown of Nijmegen, Netherlands, on December 21, 1597.

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

## 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

Wednesday, 21 December at 7pm

in the St Madeleine Centre

Facilitator: Rev Deacon Michael Tan



Faith and Formation session for

## Catholic Health Care Professionals

Saturday 11 February 2023 9am-10.30am

All-Saints of Africa Centre, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown  
Diocesan Mass with Anointing begins at 11:00am

RSVP by 06 Feb to [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

### Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2022 to [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

### Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

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



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# ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

17/18 December		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Sandra Tabone Zakia Touma	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Resumes School Term 1, 2023
FLOWERS	WEDDING		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino	

24/25 December		5.30PM FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	8PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	MIDNIGHT MASS	8AM CHRISTMAS DAY	10AM CHRISTMAS DAY
	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire		Joseph Spina		Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR		John Puleo	Phyllis Hannah	Piety Rocha	
	READERS	Justin Sebire Jacqui Nisbet	Colleen Dunlop		Maria Fry	Sandra Bonello Trish Maidens
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire				
	MUSICIANS	Merle Fonseca		Jared Calleia	Joan Sattler	Joan Sattler
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team				
FLOWERS	Cosmo Murdocca			ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper	