



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

25th December 2022

Nativity of the Lord



Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

"And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent..."

Taylor Caldwell

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Merry Christmas to you all! No doubt, you are being overwhelmed with messages on your mailbox or smart phones and gifts as well from your families, friends and acquaintances. All these bring such joy to us! But Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of all and He brings ineffable joy and merriment and happiness. May I wish that these wonderful gifts of Jesus Christ remain with you and your family today and every day! For some, it is also the time of mixed feelings, a season of sadness as well as joy. Those who have lost their loved ones, and those who are in stress or depression due to financial constraints, or terminal illness, and those victims of war or violence, natural disasters and the refugees and asylum seekers cannot feel the fullness of joy and Christmas can leave a deep, unfilled pit in their stomach.



How can we celebrate Christmas in a fragmented and broken world? Christmas is not a time to pretend as if everything is right with the world. So, what should we do? Mark D Robert, a Pastor suggests, "we must allow Christmas to increase our longing. So many of us live in a stupor, accepting the brokenness of our world as a given, rather than as something in need of divine mending. The Christmas theme of peace on earth should increase our longing for peace on earth. It should augment our dissatisfaction with violence and injustice. It should amplify our hope for the future, even as it motivates us to be peacemakers wherever we can". So, let us see the hope in us and those around us this Christmas!

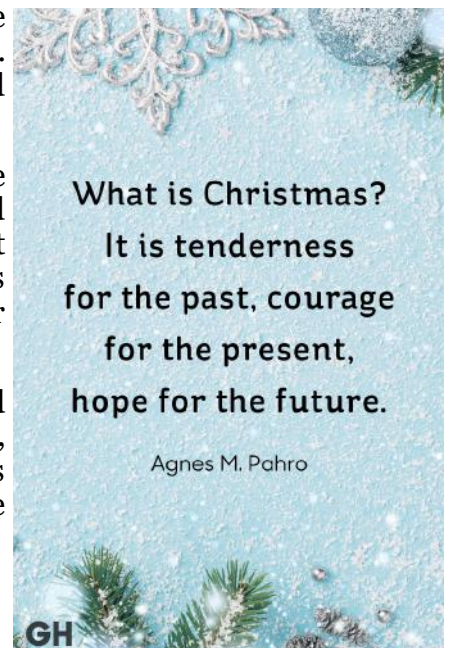


Part of the good news of Christmas is that 'God is closer to us than we are to ourselves'. God has entered into our realities in Jesus Christ. And this God is also with us (Emmanuel) in our pain and suffering. He is not just a spectator watching from a distance at our lives ridden with crises and challenges. Again and again, God reminds us that He is at our door knocking that we can open our hearts and minds to let Him in.

Christmas reinforces the promise of peace on earth, of the broken world made whole. Peace should begin with us! The brokenness of our world, and, indeed of our own lives, drives us to the only One who brings wholeness. And this is the One whose humble birth we celebrate at Christmas!

God's blessings

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS



PRAYER AT ST MAD'S

The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30 am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
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 careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
RCIA	For enquires contact Fr Vincent or Parish Office
St Mads Rosary	Thursday after morning Mass Monday Rosary Via Zoom—Resumes Monday, 30 January 2023 at 7pm 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 stmads@yahoo.com.au)



LET US BUILD OUR COMMUNITY

As God is a community, we, who are created in His image and likeness are a community of social creatures. We are created for a purpose of making everyone around us feel loved and accepted. Community is very important to society at large.

We all face internal and external issues in our lives and sometimes these issues may make us feel isolated. The struggles can make us feel like we are invisible and without someone to offer much – needed support it is easy to spiral.

St Madeleine's parish community with the school communities has been a welcoming, supportive community in ways possible. It is a caring and loving community offering its spiritual, material, and pastoral support to the people in need here and abroad. I do appreciate and thank everyone who is part of this selfless service in our parish. May I invite the young families of our parish together with the elderly to join the party and build up our community for the wellbeing of everyone around us! Your sharing of time, talents and treasure in any one of the ministries of the parish can make a lot of difference. I do hope that the young people own the parish and take it forward in the gospel values of love, peace and justice.

You are always welcome to be a part of formation. Kindly get in touch with the parish office for further details.

God's blessings
Fr. Vincent



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) = \$1,285.40
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$835.30 Loose = \$1,215.20
Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,874.23

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION - DECEMBER

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



For the recently deceased: Lina Tabone

For the dearly departed: Filiciana N Sabellano, Michele Vaccarella, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Olive Burns, Ortensia Russo, Pablito 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 Chih, Abraham family, Salvatore Mercieca

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

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S Wishing everyone a merry Christmas from our Social Justice group at St Mad's. St Madeleine's Parish Social Justice group objectives:

- To share information about Social Justice projects in the parish
- Link with organisations that have social justice principles
- Celebrate Social Justice Sunday in the parish and other key dates
- Raise awareness and unite parish community about social justice issues
- Undertake appeals, including Caritas, Vinnies Winter & Christmas and our Christmas hamper appeal
- Promote World day of Prayer each March and other inter-faith activities
- Seek to encourage Fair Trade activity across the congregation including reducing modern slavery impact
- Aim to connect with our Parish Friendship outreach in India and Timor Leste
- link with the Diocesan Social Justice program
- Promote Hills Yarning initiatives across the parish
- Aim to become a Laudato Si' parish

Please join with us in 2023 as we continue our St Mad's Social Justice mission: We, the Social Justice Committee of the St Madeleine's Parish Community, are called to build God's kingdom of peace and justice as a way of life in our parish community and in the entire earth community, according to Catholic Social Teaching.

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Alexandra Mifsud, Selina Calleia & Joan Sattler

Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Deb Rankin

Baptism Preparation: Angeliqe 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 John the Evangelist

27 December



It is God who calls;
human beings answer.

The vocation of John and his brother James is stated very simply in the Gospels, along with that of Peter and his brother Andrew: Jesus called them; they followed. The absoluteness of their response is indicated by the account. James and John "were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him" (Matthew 4:21b-22). For the three former fishermen—Peter, James and John—that faith was to be rewarded by a special friendship with Jesus. They alone were privileged to be present at the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus and the agony in Gethsemane. But John's friendship was even more special. Tradition assigns to him the Fourth Gospel, although most modern Scripture scholars think it unlikely that the apostle and the evangelist are the same person. John's own Gospel refers to him as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (see John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2), the one who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper, and the one to whom Jesus gave the exquisite honor of caring for his mother, as John stood beneath the cross. "Woman, behold your son.... Behold, your mother" (John 19:26b, 27b). Because of the depth of his Gospel, John is usually thought of as the eagle of theology, soaring in high regions that other writers did not enter. The mysterious experience of the Resurrection is perhaps best contained in the words of Acts: "Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they [the questioners] were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus" (Acts 4:13). The Apostle John is traditionally considered the author also of three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation. His Gospel is a very personal account. He sees the glorious and divine Jesus already in the incidents of his mortal life. At the Last Supper, John's Jesus speaks as if he were already in heaven. John's is the Gospel of Jesus' glory.

<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

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 Year's 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

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

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit 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 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

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.



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



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

**Sr Nathalie Becquart Sydney Public Forum and
Lecture: 3 February**

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCI, the Vatican's most influential female, is coming to Australia for a whirlwind tour in February 2023. Sr Nathalie will be in Sydney on Friday 3 February, presenting at a public forum at 4pm and a public lecture at 7pm, both held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Places are limited, so please register via <https://parracatholic.org/srnathalie/>.



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

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	Phyllis Hannah	John Puleo	Phyllis Hannah	Piety Rocha	Heidi Bou-Harb
	READERS	Justin Sebire Jacqui Nisbet	Colleen Dunlop Karla Quinn	Rosanna Ceroli Nigel Saunders	Maria Fry Nigel Saunders	Sandra Bonello Trish Maidens
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire				
	MUSICIANS	Merle Fonseca		Jared Calleia	Joan Sattler	Mark Huxley
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team				
FLOWERS	Cosmo Murdochca				ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper

31 Dec & 1 Jan		5:30PM VIGIL	NEW YEAR'S MIDNIGHT MASS	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Sandra Tabone	Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Heidi Bou-Harb	Heidi Bou-Harb	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma
	READERS	Pat Waters Colleen Dunlop	Tony Hooper	Tony Hooper Margaret Mieczkowski	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper & Sandra Tabone			CHILDREN'S LITURGY
FLOWERS	Parish			ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper