



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

4th December 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

NON-VIOLENCE IS THE ARTICLE OF FAITH- Mahatma Gandhi

A few years ago, a newspaper columnist reported on an unusual program. It dealt with removing unwanted tattoos -especially gang -related tattoos -from the bodies of young people. A surprising thing happened after the column appeared. Over a thousand letters flooded in from young people all over the country, asking more about the programme. Because of this remarkable response, the Los Angeles School District and a local cable television company produced a film called Un-tattoo You. It told of the dangers of amateur tattooing and showed how difficult it was to remove small tattoos from arms and faces and larger tattoos from chests and backs. The stars of the film were young people themselves. They talked frankly about why they were tattooed in the first place and why they now wanted the tattoos removed. The film eventually won a national award and was distributed throughout the country. The story behind the film "Un-tattoo You" illustrates an important point. All of us have done things in our past that we now regret and would like to erase. This is not just true of young people. It is even more true of older people. The tragic thing about all of this is that so many people regret what they did but don't know what to do about it now. So, they live with the mistake. They go through the guilt trip and lose peace of mind and health. (Mark Link in 'Sunday Homilies) However, just as young people rejoiced when they discovered a way to remove their unwanted tattoos, so we Catholics rejoice that Jesus gave us a way to liberate ourselves from this through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). May I there encourage you to receive this **Sacrament of Reconciliation on 13th December 7 pm in our church** as a way of heeding to the invitation of John the Baptist, "Prepare the way for the Lord". Sure, we can experience true freedom from the chains of sin and guilt. Below are the reflections of Dan Moriarty (Maryknoll) for the second Sunday of Advent. (Source duly and gratefully acknowledged)



This Sunday, John the Baptist challenges us to face the most difficult realities in our lives and in our world. Ours is a culture that too often encourages magical thinking: Protect corporations and billionaires, and wealth will trickle down to poor and working families. Fight wars to achieve peace. End crime and undocumented migration by hiding people away in prisons. End racism by not talking about racism. Simply think about what you want, and it will manifest

itself. Again and again, we are told to hide, destroy, or ignore what is hard or painful, and trust that good things will be ours. Out of the desert and into this cacophony of snake oil sales pitches appears John with a different kind of prescription: go to the hard place. Do the work of healing and reconciliation.

John's call is echoed in the gospel call to nonviolence. When we commit to nonviolence, we recognize different forms of violence and our participation. We must repent of violence – whether direct, physical violence or systemic and structural violence, the violence of attack and exploitation or that of exclusion and indifference.

The very word nonviolence speaks to this discernment: it is not simply non-violence, or the absence of violence. Nonviolence requires that we recognize violence and its root causes in order to resist and transform it.

Let us consider our interior attitudes and interpersonal relationships, but also engage in social analysis: how do I participate in structures that perpetuate violence? Economic exploitation, racism and other forms of discrimination, the destruction of the environment and contribution to climate change are all forms of violence. When we vote for leaders who spend trillions of dollars on weapons while failing to fund human needs, and we pay taxes into that system, we are complicit in violence.



In committing to nonviolence, the Maryknoll Lay Missioners have identified three ways nonviolence is expressed vis-à-vis violence: prevention, intervention, and restoration/reconciliation. The second step is like the sacrament of reconciliation: intervention requires naming and repenting sinful behaviour. Restoration and reconciliation mean rebuilding the right relationships. And prevention means developing new behaviours that seek the common good. Nonviolence is the path to peace with justice: it produces "fruit in keeping with repentance." As we prepare the way for the Lord, let us identify and repent of the violence in our lives.

"When the divine enters into human affairs, it defies human logic, confounds human expectations, and usually goes unrecorded in important news outlets. This is what is known by scripture scholars as the "divine reversal." God is definitely human and acting in our world. And humans are reversing the age-old ways of selfishness, greed and violence, and instead acting in divine fashion. This is what the divine reversal means". - Father Frank Breen

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 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 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 stmads@yahoo.com.au)



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.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to all our volunteers

who have achieved

their Safeguarding Certificates.

We will present certificates at the end of the 10am Mass this Sunday

Suzanne - Parish Safeguarding Champion
m. 0410 936 108



SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

Hamper Mass is next weekend, thank you for all your contributions to help those not as fortunate as we are. We are talking with our local Vinnies group to ensure we give to local families in need. Any queries about hampers give Sue a call 0432-716-577. Hills Yarning caught up this week to plan for 2023, focus will continue to share the Stolen Generation stories from the previous Marella Mission that was on the site of Bernie Mullane reserve. The Baabayn Homework club Christmas party is happening at Kenthurst December 13th if anyone is interested in helping give Sue a call. Our Laudato Si' group meet to explore a response to the Continental Stage document for the Synod next year. "Enlarge the space of your tent" Isaiah 54:2 was good to chat with Wendy Goonan our Diocesan rep on the Synodal process. Upcoming feast day is December 12th the founding of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831 by Catherine McAuley in Ireland.

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) = \$972.00

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1,982.00 Loose = \$780.40

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

Congratulations to the newly baptised!

Layla & Tarek Skik, Archer Idaszak, Layla Rowe, Zion Corrigan, Sierra Saliba, Ivaliah Micallef



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



For the dearly departed: Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Joe Farrugia, Ky Frenedo, Tony Mangion, Geoff Burcham, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahide Hajje, Betty & Mary Merhi, George Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Abraham family, Robert Alberti, George Cascun, Shirley Swinnerton, Nedina A Ratliff, Rosina Mezzagosto, Mary Cumbo, Anthony, Rose & Lawrence Apap, June Brennen, Joseph & Louise Bonello, Salvatore Mercieca, Marie & George Portelli

Please pray for the sick: 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

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)

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8 December



A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity. In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching. Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

<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



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

for our retired parishioners

Tuesday, 6 December

11.30am Mass followed by Lunch
Please use the sign-in sheet at the Church
entrance to register or contact the parish office

CHRISTMAS HAMPER MASS



**Sunday, 11 December
at 10am**

This year we are assisting Baabayn Inc
Emerton and Holy Family Parish Emerton.



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

Come & support our Marian students at Mass!

Marian students will be providing the music for
5.30pm evening Mass on

Sunday 11 December 2022.

We would love to see as many of our St Mad's
parishioners come along to this Mass to
support these young people and to welcome
their involvement in church!

Thankyou!

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
on **10th & 11th December**.

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.

THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS IS HURTING MANY FAMILIES.



Families like Kelly's are being pushed into poverty
and are at risk of homelessness.

Your support this Christmas will provide the relief
they need to survive. We appreciate your donations
during our masses on 10-11th December 2022.
Donations can be placed also in the donation box
inside the church or use the alternative options
noted below.

Scan the
QR code
to donate.



DONATE TO THE VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL TODAY.
Please give in store, visit vinnies.org.au,
call 13 18 12 or scan the QR code.



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



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

3/4 December		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Justin Sebire	Margaret Mieczkowski Tony Hooper	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Shroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire			
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
	FLOWERS	Dianne Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman

10/11 December	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Teresa Capaldi Maureen Burford	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Heidi Bou-Harb	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Justin Sebire	Catherine Diekman Maria Baldi	Pauline Chaccal David Hall-O'Dwyer	Lidia Ceccato Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS			Kerstin Grima	
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sally Coppini
	FLOWERS	Dianne Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino