



# St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

**29 January 2023**  
**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**  
 Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13  
 1 Cor 1:26-31  
 Matthew 5:1-12

## “Becoming a child is living the Beatitudes and so finding the narrow gate into the Kingdom” Henri J.M. Nouwen



The Gospel reading for today is more challenging and terrifying than many others in the Bible. Jesus turns our entire way of thinking upside down. The Beatitudes would have had the same effect at the time as they do today, which is to strike at the heart of our humanness and our fears. The Beatitudes could be called “radical” in any age. They contradict what society teaches.

Looking at the depressed, impoverished, vulnerable people around the world and especially of the underdeveloped countries, we ask ourselves, “how do these people live amidst the incredible difficulties”. The only answer would be their solid faith in the Almighty. The beatitudes come very true and alive in the lives of such people even today.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:** To be poor is to be humble, to recognize your need for God. The poor have their only hope in God. Their prayers are deep and heartfelt. They yearn for the day when Peace will reign. May we draw strength and inspiration from such people who are enduring the predicaments with their future generations?

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted:** Almost every person has a tragic story to tell. Every family has experienced the loss of a loved one or the pain of suffering. I meet so many people who share and many times it drives me to tears and is very challenging. We bring comfort to them and we marvel at their undaunting faith in God.

**Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth:** The humility of people who fight for justice in a non-violent way and the immensity of their sacrifices and their submission to the Will of God teach us patience and strength. Their perseverance against all odds in their belief for a better world is amazing. Sure, God will reward them.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied:** In a world where humanitarian workers are killed, human rights workers are beaten, journalists are disappeared, and simple, good people are oppressed, the struggle continues. When someone hungers and thirsts, they can think of nothing else but food and liquid. A time will come when this world shall be satisfied with justice and righteousness.

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy:** The violent ones receive most of the attention. What I have found is that good people overwhelmingly outnumber the evil ones. I have met so many who are quietly working toward reconciliation and peace. They do the work of Jesus without flourish or fanfare. They trust God is listening and helping them.

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God:** Although one finds self-seeking motives by many in many parts of the world, there are even more who are generous beyond belief. Their witness mirrors that of Jesus who sacrificed his own life for the redemption and salvation of mankind. These pure souls will see God.

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God:** So many people have spent so much time attempting to bring reconciliation and justice to these violent nations. They are the true peace makers promoting non-violence in what seems to be a losing effort. Yet, they are inspired to double their efforts and with great patience they continue. Peacemakers foster peace between God and man.

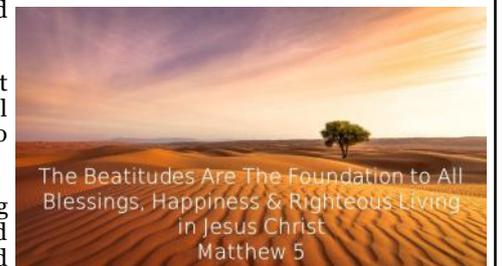
**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:** Every day we read of good people being harassed by government leaders or rebellious factions. It seems evil has the upper hand. But the Kingdom of God is different. We also meet people who are focused on heaven above and fearlessly speak out fearlessly against injustice and persecutions. They are truly blessed for their witness.

**Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you:**

It is difficult to rejoice when one is feeling pain. Yet we are called to be glad when reviled. I met a woman who had lost many of her family members to civil conflicts and starvation. Yet, she exuded happiness and contentment that these family members were now in heaven- (the above are the Edited Reflections from Gabe Hurrish, a Maryknoll Lay Missionary in South Sudan)

**The Beatitudes are our moral compass. Let these ‘Be’ our ‘Attitudes’ in our faith journey!**

God's blessings  
Fr. Vince



**“We need to build up society in the light of the Beatitudes, walking towards the Kingdom with the least among us.”**  
**Pope Francis**  
Millennial

# PARISH NEWS



## PRAYER AT ST MAD'S

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 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 <a href="mailto:stmads@yahoo.com.au">stmads@yahoo.com.au</a> )



## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

**World Interfaith Harmony Week** is an annual event observed during the first week of February, is a way to promote peace and harmony between all people regardless of their faith. At St Mad's we have an active team of social justice advocates within our parish. New members are always welcome email [sue@kci.net.au](mailto:sue@kci.net.au) and share your justice passions with others in the team. Parramatta Diocese is having a gathering of Social Justice teams from across the diocese on April 1<sup>st</sup> this will be a great opportunity to link, learn and share together.

**CATECHISTS** Our local schools, of which there are 4, are in need of Catechists. We have a group of great dedicated parishioners, who attend the local schools, each week. If you are wanting to join, or you have any questions, please contact -  
Maureen Jones 0419512252 or  
Email [maureenjones782@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenjones782@hotmail.com)  
or Father Vince 9654-2260.

## 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) = \$1,220.30  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$ 1,027 Loose = \$1,143.95

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

## FUNERAL OF THE LATE GIACOMINA ZANCANARO

Friday, 3 February 2023

at 11am

St Madeleine's Church

*Our prayers and condolences with the Zancanaro family*

## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

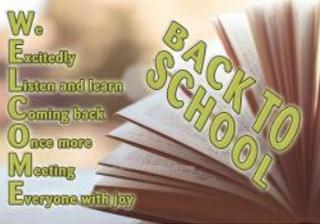
**For the recently deceased:** Angela Barbaro 

**For the dearly departed:** Mary Cumbo, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Joe Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Ky Frendo, Goeff Burcham, Domenico & Rita Franceschina, Keith Dawson, Joseph Tabone, Connie Vella, Maria La Spina, Giuseppe Carli, Roberto Motta Pirotelli, Antonio Votano, Giulio Ceccato, Anthony Grima

**Please pray for the sick:** Aura Krakowszky, 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**

**Dear Students of Marian College and St Madeleine's Primary,**



**Believe, you had a great vacation and now settle up yourselves back to the school. May God bless you with a bright and creative year of your school life. May you be blessed with plenty of unforgettable moments this year with the support of your parents, teachers and the parish community! Just enjoy your school life!**  
Fr. Vince

## A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people who have made themselves poor to enrich others, whose house is always a place of welcome even to strangers.*

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people who can listen to the miseries of others, who heal wounds by making pain bearable, for people who can console.*

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people who spread peace and rest, who are attentive to little things, who are happy when others are great.*

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people who hunger for justice who crave to see every person free, who suffer when injustice is done to their neighbour.*

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people whose judgment is gentle, who respect the mystery of all life, who open their hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation.*

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people whose intentions are straightforward, whose words are sincere, for people loyal to their friends.*

*We thank you, Lord our God, for people who believe in roads to peace, who turn their swords into instruments of friendship, who work to make their faith credible by committing themselves to one another.*

## 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



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

## PIETY SHOP

**God's Word 2023**  
is now available for \$20

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413 272 400 for any  
special requests

## AND THEN SOME

*A successful businessman once was asked the secret of success. His reply summed up success in three words: AND THEN SOME. He learned early in life that the difference between average people and truly successful people could be simply stated in those three words. Top people did what was expected and then some! Jesus taught them and then some principles in the Sermon on the Mount. He is saying: Go beyond what is expected! Go a little further! Let these words serve as a tonic for your spirit. Practice your faith faithfully –and then some. Give generously of your time and resources- and then some. Greet those you meet with a smile – and then some. Meet your obligations; be dependable –and then some. Do your best in all things and at all times –and then some. - Clarence DeLoach Jr.*

## St John Bosco

Feast Day:

31 January 2023



John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play. Encouraged during his youth in Turin to become a priest so he could work with young boys, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan in Turin, and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism. After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, Don Bosco opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring. By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. John's interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers. John's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales. With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.

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

## BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

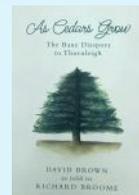
You are warmly invited to attend the book launch of  
*As Cedars Grow The Bane Diaspora to Thornleigh*

*As Cedars Grow* is the story of the young Baynie family who migrate to Australia in 1925 from Bane. *As Cedars Grow* also includes many stories about other Bane families and how they immigrated and settled in Australia

Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 6.30pm  
at St George Church Hall, Wells Street Thornleigh  
Supper and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP by 3 February 2023 to Adele Saliba on 0417 228 929  
or Elizabeth O'Brien on 0412 335 690

All proceeds from the sale of the first edition (400 books) will be donated to the St George Charity Association



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

## Sr Nathalie Bequart Sydney Public Forum and Lecture: 3 February

Sr Nathalie Bequart XMCL, 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/>.

## 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)

**Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 19 February 2pm** at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

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



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# ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

28 & 29 Jan		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Maureen & Rick Jones	Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Heidi Bou-Harb Pat Waters	Margaret Mieczkowski Nigel Saunders	Sandra Tabone Karla Quinn	Joanna O'Neill Tereza Barisic
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Resumes School Term 1, 2023
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper	

4 & 5 Feb		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Heidi Bou-Harb	Tony Hooper Eileen Sherlock	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey Gambrill		
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
FLOWERS	Calla Lily		ALTAR LINEN	Kathy Fenech	