



# St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



28 ANNANGROVE RD, KENTHURST NSW 2156  
(P) 9654 2260  
(E) KENTHURST@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG OR  
STMADS@YAHOO.COM.AU  
(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU  
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

## 8th January 2023

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



## BE ATTENTIVE TO THE DAY TO DAY 'EPIPHANY' MOMENTS



Happy Feast to every one of you!

*There was once a monastery that had come upon hard times. Once it was filled with young monks and its great church resounded with the singing of God's praise, but now it was almost deserted, with a handful of elderly brothers shuffling through the cloister struggling to pray and work. On the edge of the monastery woods an old rabbi had built a little hut. He would go there from time to time to fast and pray. Whenever the venerable and wise rabbi was there, the monks felt blessed by his presence.*

*One day the abbot of the monastery went to visit the rabbi to seek his counsel. The rabbi welcomed him warmly. First, the*

*two prayed silently together; then the rabbi made tea for his guest. As he set the cups on the table, the rabbi said to the abbot, "You and your brothers are serving God with heavy hearts. You have come to ask a lesson from me. Very well. I will give you a teaching — but you can only repeat it once. After that, no one must ever say it aloud again." The rabbi leaned in and looked straight into the eyes of the abbot. "The Messiah is among you," the rabbi said. "He lives among you now."*

The Messiah  
Is one of **YOU!**

*The abbot did not know what to say; he left the rabbi's hut without a word. The next morning, the abbot called his brothers together. He told them he had received a teaching from the rabbi who walks in the woods — but warned that the teaching was to be spoken once and then never said again. The abbot then looked at each of his brothers and said, "The rabbi said that one of us is the Messiah." The monks were stunned by the abbot's words. What could this mean? they asked themselves. Is Brother John the Messiah? Or Father Matthew? Or Brother Thomas? Could I be the Messiah? They were all puzzled — and unsettled — by the rabbi's teaching, but faithfully obeyed the abbot's instructions that it never be mentioned again.*

*As time went by, the monks began to treat one another with a special reverence. There was a gentle, peaceful quality about them that was hard to describe but easy to notice. The few visitors to the monastery found themselves deeply moved by the life of the community. Before long, people were coming from miles around to be nourished by the prayer of the monks. More and more brothers joined the community. As the monastery began to rebuild, the joy of their prayer once again resounded through their church — and hearts. The old rabbi was never seen again — but the old monks, who had taken his teaching to heart, forever felt his presence. [Source unknown.]*



"The Messiah lives among you" — Epiphany celebrates that reality in all our lives: that God's Christ is present among us in our love for one another, in the mercy and justice we work for, in the forgiveness we extend and accept. Our lives are filled with "epiphanies": moments of awareness and understanding, discoveries of abilities and potential, realizations of the love of God in our lives. In this New Year, may we seek to find the Messiah in our midst, following the star of God's reconciliation and justice, enabling us to behold Emmanuel — "God with us"— in every experience of charity, consolation and forgiveness, whether given or received. The obligation of looking after each other and especially the vulnerable, the weak, the strangers, the refugees and the children threatened by violence from various corners arises from the epiphany of the divine image in ourselves and through our encounters with the incarnate Word in each other. (Thanks to A Sampler Connections)

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 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> )



*“Love is the light — and in the end, the only light — that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God.”*  
the late Pope Benedict XVI - *Deus Caritas Est*

A certain Mark Twain put a dog and a cat in a cage together as an experiment, to see if they could get along. They did. So he put in a bird, pig and goat. They, too, got along fine after a few adjustments. Then he put in a Baptist, a Presbyterian, and a Catholic, and the hell broke loose. Mark Twain did not even bother putting together a Christian, a Muslim, and a Hindu. That was unthinkable in his days. In today's world, however, it has become obvious that Christians live in the same cage, in the same city, in the same street, in the same world, with people of other religions. It is in this context, someone has a dream of the abolition of all religions in the world and the emergence of a Global Spirituality! The dream of this individual can be legitimized on the basis of what is happening around the world in the name of God and religion: Bloody wars, violence, and terrorism. Each religion wants to limit God to its own bounds and traditions forgetting the truth of the absoluteness of God. The Feast of Epiphany opens our eyes to the truth that God belongs to all and He reveals Himself to all irrespective of any difference or distinction.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

The Salvation Army Parramatta has recently started the "Second Bite" program at 426 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills Social Justice Group is offering an Evolutionary Spirituality Retreat. Evolutionary Spirituality is a way to contemplate The New Story of Creation in six steps from Cosmology to an Integration of all created life. An important understanding of why there is an environmental and social crisis emerging in our world today. This retreat is a suitable resource for leaders, teachers and anyone who cares for God's Earth. Ask Sue for more details.

## 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 : **0000388**

**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) = \$1,057.15  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$707 Loose = \$1,259.45

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

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION—January

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



**For the dearly departed:** Giulio Ceccato, Anthony Grima, Mary Cumbo, Lina Tabone, Filiciana N Sabellano, Michele Vaccarella, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Olive Burns, Ortensia Russo, Pablito Corpuz, Francesco Piperata

**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*

## 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)

## 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

God's Word 2023 is now available for \$20  
2023 Columban Calendar \$10

We have an ever changing array of gifts and religious items. Special orders are welcome too.  
We are open after every weekend Mass.

Contact Sandra Tabone  
on 0413 272 400 for any special requests



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

### 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](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.

### 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/>

### SAVE THE DATE—Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 19 February

You are invited to the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking on Sunday 19 February at 2pm at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. We hope you will join us to commemorate the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in Australia and worldwide and look forward to celebrating the legacy of St Josephine Bakhita with you.

### 2022-23 Social Justice Statement "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse"

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2022-23 "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse" invites us to engage with a complex and challenging social reality: domestic and family violence and abuse. The Australian Bishops call for all people to take part in the individual and social transformation needed so all people can live in safety. Download the statement at [www.bit.ly/SJS22-23](http://www.bit.ly/SJS22-23)

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

## Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

Deceased: 31 December 2022

Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) was born on 16 April 1927 in Marktl am Inn, Germany. His father, a police officer, came from a traditional family of farmers from Lower Bavaria. From 1946 to 1951, he studied philosophy and theology at the University of Munich and at the higher school in Freising. Together with his brother Georg, he was ordained a priest on 29 June 1951 in the Cathedral at Freising. Beginning in 1969, he was a professor of dogmatic theology and of the history of dogma at the University of Regensburg, where he eventually became Dean and Vice-Rector. From 1962 to 1965 he was present during all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council as a chief theological advisor to the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Josef Frings. Fr Ratzinger's important and useful experience as a priest and an "expert" at the Second Vatican Council was immensely valuable and fundamental to his life. He lived out this experience as confirmation of his own vocation, which he defined as "theological". On 24 March 1977, Pope Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of München und Freising (Munich and Freising). He was ordained a Bishop on 28 May that same year and was the first diocesan priest in 80 years to take on the pastoral governance of this large Bavarian Diocese. He chose as his episcopal motto: "Fellow Worker in the Truth" (cf. III Jn 1: 8). He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Pope Paul VI in the Consistory of 27 June 1977, of the Titles of the Suburbicarian Church of Velletri-Segni (5 April 1993) and Suburbicarian Church of Ostia (30 November 2002). On 25 November 1981 he was appointed by Pope John Paul II as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He also became President of the Biblical Commission and of the Pontifical International Theological Commission. His role as President of the Commission for Drafting the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the six years of intense work (1986-92) behind its preparation are one of his many outstanding achievements. On Tuesday, 19 April [2005], Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected the 265th Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, selecting the name Benedict XVI. [https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/biography/documents/inf\\_ben-xvi\\_bio\\_20050419\\_short-biography-old.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/biography/documents/inf_ben-xvi_bio_20050419_short-biography-old.html)





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# ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

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	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Nicole Foxall Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Steve Fry	Phyllis Hannah	
	READERS	Justin Sebire Pat Waters	Catherine Diekman Maria Baldi	Sandra Tabone David Hall O Dwyer	Lidia Ceccato Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire	Bailey Gambrill		
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Resumes School Term 1, 2023
	FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garrett
14 & 15 Jan		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Heidi Bou-Harb Robert Gerometta	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima			
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Resumes School Term 1, 2023
	FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garrett