



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



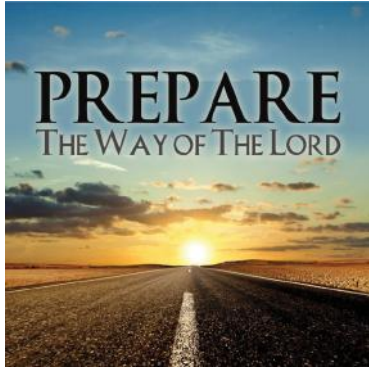
28 ANNANGROVE RD, KENTHURST NSW 2156
(P) 9654 2260
(E) KENTHURST@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG OR
STMADS@YAHOO.COM.AU
(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Pet 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8

“Recognize that God is with you. Acknowledge God knows what He's doing. Search for God's will: the path He desires you to take in life.” - Brennan Manning



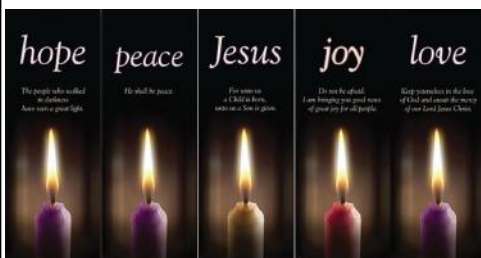
This week we hear a near unanimous message from our readings. Prepare the way! The author of Isaiah says to the Jewish people: prepare the way of the LORD, fear not to cry out. In the Gospel, John the Baptist quotes these same words from Isaiah: You are called to prepare the way. And perhaps it comes most descriptively in the Psalm: Justice shall walk before God and prepare the way. The message standing out in the readings is a gentle reminder that Advent is not a passive waiting but active participation. Like Isaiah said last Sunday, we must put ourselves as clay in the hands of God who is the potter. God's kingdom does not show up on its own.

Our first reading this Sunday is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. It is a prophecy of comfort and hope for the Israelites who were in captivity in Babylon. He wanted the people who were living in exile, and agony, to think in a new way and to have a new vision even in the midst of utter darkness. The religious vision prophesied by Isaiah did create a sense of hope in the oppressed people and they were able to realize God's fidelity in loving them and caring for them (First Reading). Our initial reaction to similar scriptures may be one of rejection: "inconceivable, so far from our reality". When we read the prophecy in Isaiah, we think of asylum seekers and refugees and the victims of war and violence, abuse at the micro and macro levels, and millions whose lives have been completely the opposite of the promises across the world. You know, we see the flame of faith and hope very much alive in the belief of such vulnerable people that they will be free one day and their children will be safe.

The world is still often a dark and scary place, perhaps now more than ever. The response of God is still the same: put aside the ways of fear, violence, greed, hatred and selfishness. Even in the midst of darkness, uncertainty, fear and chaos, God is very present, and God always has the last word.

Many of us live in a schizophrenic value world. Many of us believe that our society is in bad shape while at the same time asserting that our personal lives are in good shape. Many are quick to point out that others need conversion and repentance and yet they themselves need not confess their sins and repent. We will not be able to sustain such a schizophrenic and sick culture very much longer. Living with such split vision is not living at all. That's why, John the Baptist invites us to fix our lives in order with a clear vision of experiencing the true freedom emanating from a sincere repentance/ reconstruction of our lives. Are we willing to acquire that vision? It is a matter of choice and never a matter of feeling like it. It is not up to God; it is up to us. (Excerpted from Fr. Scott Lewis and Fr. Charles Irvin and edited). Bear fruit... show it in action ...

We are called upon to bring hope to the people in the margins where the poor and the powerless live and move. We are called to straighten out twisted communications with words of truth and sincere compassion, even for our adversaries. If you as an individual or as a family feel harassed and dejected, going through the harshness of life, hold the torch of hope.



The Four Candles burned slowly. Their ambience was so soft you could hear them speak... The First Candle said, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit." Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The Second Candle said, "I Am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable." Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly, The Third Candle Speaks, "I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." Waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly...A child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning. The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end!" Then The Fourth Candle speaks gently to the little child, "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles." With Shining Eyes, the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Faith and Love can shine brightly in our lives.

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 Rosary Via Zoom 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)



Please join us for our ADVENT program - *The Sign* -
Thursday, 14 December 7pm
in the Church (note date change)
and
Tuesday, 19 December at 7pm
in the St Mad's Centre

CAN YOU PLAY THE PIANO/ KEYBOARD? DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The St Madeleine's Music Ministry is searching for parishioners who can help our singers and congregation provide music for our weekend masses. Support and assistance provided!
Can you help us, please?
Contact: Selina Calleia 0416 265 233
s.calleia@hotmail.com

Please ensure your details are kept up to date 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.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

16 & 17 DECEMBER: This year we welcome your support in donating to the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal.

A third collection will take place during Masses next weekend.

"Over the last year, the cost-of-living crisis has become increasingly dire as prices continue to soar and inflation is at some of the highest levels we've seen since the early 1990's. For people on the margins and those who were already struggling to make ends meet, this crisis has had a deepening impact.

Many are experiencing poverty and are on the brink of homelessness. Alarmingly, the number of people turning to Vinnies for the first time has increased from one-in-four to one-in-three over the past year.



CHRISTMAS ROSTER

Please write your name on the Christmas Roster if you are available - located at the entrance to the Church

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES ALL WELCOME! SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

A practice to prepare for the music for our Christmas masses will be held on:
TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023,
at 7PM
RSVP: Selina Calleia 0416 265 233.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,128.20
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$ 942.40 Loose = \$945.40

Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,864.38

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently deceased: Marie Pallister
For the dearly departed: Anthony, Rose & Lawrence Apap, Joseph & Louise Bonello, Lina Tabone, Angelo and Lonza Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Joe and Sam Farrugia, Ky Frendo, Geoff Burcham, Mary Cumbo, Maria & Guido Baldi, George Cascun, Karen Bartolo, Sam Farrugia, Maria & Eduardo Piccoli, Matteo Desanti, Giovanni & Giuseppina Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Domenica Scarpin, Ann Flynn, Nicolai Morley, Mary Cumbo, Frederick Salmon, Vincenzo Luca, Domenica & Francesco Barbaro, Anthony, Rose Lawrence Apap, Joseph & Louise Bonello, Roberta Alumios
Please pray for the sick: Pat Brush, Mathias Kintu Bamusibule, Cherry Luezzi, Yvonne Bolland, Brenda Riley, Henry Field, Aura Krakowszky, Hoani Alexander Barker, Sofia Viizzo, Antonia Desanti, and Jennifer Burgess.
If you would like someone to be included among these requests, please use the Mass offering envelopes found at the entrance to the Church or email the office kenthurst@parracatholic.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

A BIG thank you to all those who have contributed to our Hamper Appeal in the parish, families at Holy Family Emerton are so grateful. A BIG thank you to the team that supported our Kenthurst Baabayn Homework club pool party, held this week. Was so good to receive presents for all the students participating in homework club over the year. St Bernadette's Castle Hill library donated old books as Christmas presents and a beautiful hand knitted beanie was also a special treat as a gift. Thanks Sally. Marian College Social Justice group organised 30 lolly bags for the kids. Thanks Meg. Next week is the SVDP Christmas appeal.

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Selina Calleia, Joan Sattler & Alexandra Mifsud
Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil
Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Pauline Chaccal
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 Champion: Brendan Ford

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Assistant Priest

Rev Adam Carlow

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 during school term

Weekday Masses

9:15am Tuesdays to Fridays

9:45am - 10:15am 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)

Weddings: By appointment



CHRISTMAS

MASS TIMES

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

12 December at 7pm

NOTE: There will be a Sunday, 24 December

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent
at 9am (only)

CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday, 24 December

5.30pm Carols followed by

Family Mass

8pm Mass

11.45pm Carols followed by

Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY: Monday, 25 December

8am and 10am Mass

There will be no evening Mass

There will be no weekday Masses during the

week of Tuesday, 26 December to

Friday, 29 December

NEW YEARS EVE: Sunday, 31 December

Our usual Mass times: 8am, 10am and

5.30pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Monday, 1 January

9am Mass only



Stay in touch through our parish

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmadeleines>

PIETY SHOP

2024 Columban
Calendars
now available \$10



Christmas Cards (pack of 10) \$8.00

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400
for any special requests.

Saint John of the Cross

Feast Day: 14 December

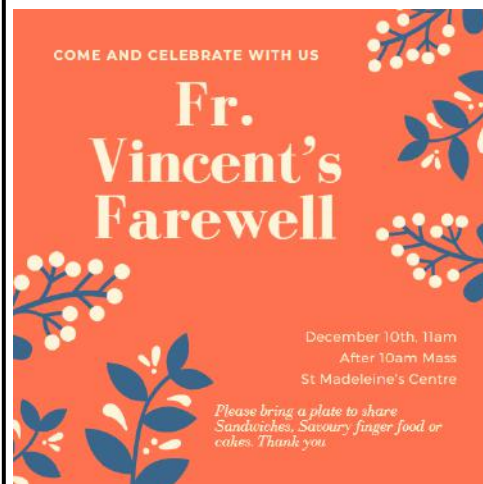
John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.



Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49—a life short, but full. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

2024 dates are on our website.

Enrolment forms will be available in February. For any queries please contact Sandra on 0410 587 735 or stmad.sacraments@gmail.com



A young man comes to the priest and says: Father I won't go to church anymore!

The priest answered: But why?

The young man replied: I see the sister who speaks ill of another sister; the brother who doesn't read well; the singing group who lives defuncting; the people who during the mass look at the cell phone, among many and many other bad things I see doing in church.

The priest says to him: Okay, but first I want you to do me a favor: take a glass full of water and go three laps around the church without spilling a drop of water on the floor. After that you can leave the church.

And the young man thought: too easy!

And he did the three laps like his father asked. When he finished he said: Ready, Father.



And the priest answered: When you were walking around, did you see the sister talk bad about the other?

The young man: No

Did you see people complain to each other?

The young man: No

Did you see anyone looking at their cell phone?

The young man: No

Do you know why? You were focused on the glass so you wouldn't throw the water away.

The same is in our life.

When our focus is our Lord Jesus Christ, we will not have time to see people's mistakes..

Who leaves church because of people,

It's because he never came in for Jesus.

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



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9 & 10 December

	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
WELCOMERS	Anne Kyngdon	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Sandra Tabone Zakia Touma	Joseph Spina
MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phyllis Hannah	
READERS	Anne Kyngdon Justin Kyngdon	Margaret Mieckowski Tony Hooper	Sue Martin Mary Sammut	Lidia Ceccato Joanna O'Neill
JNR MINISTERS	Xavier & Fred Kyngdon			Sofia, Sophie, Charlize & Sophia
MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
COUNTERS	Sonali Arnold & Paul Vella		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
FLOWERS	Nick Ceroli		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold

16 & 17 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	Heidi Bou-Harb	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Catherine Diekman	Rosanna Ceroli Adrianna Kennedy	Joanna O'Neill Tereza Barisic
JNR MINISTERS	Jacinta, Amelia & Roderick	Bailey Gambriell	Grace, Luciana, & Lily-Anne	Oliver Twyford
MUSICIANS	Rebecca Raad			
COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	School Holidays
FLOWERS	Nick Ceroli		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold