



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

24th December 2023
4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

“Once you are in communion with God, you have the eyes to see and the ears to hear other people in whom God has also found a dwelling place” - Henri Nouwen

God’s blessings to the graduates of Year 12 and Year 6! May they keep the faith alive in their hearts and may they have a colourful future! Parents, teachers – have a great and replenishing break. As Christmas is around the corner, people push themselves emotionally, physically and financially to be ready. The question is “Ready for what?”

Mother Mary helps us gain a new perspective and introspection about the mystery that we are celebrating every year! This mystery has little to do with the mad rush for the last gift; this mystery has little to do with traffic jams that test our patience... This mystery has little to do with the logistical balancing act of trying to figure out which gathering we should be noticed in...

This mystery has everything to do with noticing the sign still present today...the sign of a Virgin giving birth to the Messiah!

A small river fish that happened to reach the ocean said to an older fish, “Excuse me,” “You are older than I, so can you tell me where to find this thing they call the ocean?” “The ocean,” said the older fish “is the thing you are in now.” “Oh, this? But this is only salty water. What I’m seeking is the ocean,” said the disappointed fish as he swam away to search elsewhere. Today’s gospel introduces God as Emmanuel, one living with us. Our Christmas celebration should enable us to experience this God within us and around us.



In the busyness of our life, there is the chance that “God-is-with us” can easily go unnoticed, ignored or so over sentimentalized that God cannot even be recognized....” Let us look around and see the events of our life in society and we could discern the presence of the Emmanuel... in the ordinariness of human life...Our life is punctuated with hardships, sickness and depression, disappointments, and failures... pushing us to the edge of life. Here is the story of Alejandra: ‘I was feeling suicidal after my marriage broke down’. ‘After two years of separation, the divorce papers were being drawn up. I asked my mother to watch my children so I could be alone. She sensed I was in a dangerous place and suggested we go shopping instead. I had no energy to shop, so I stayed outside on a bench and contemplated the different ways I could end my life and stop the heartache I was feeling. ‘Then a woman came and sat down next to me. “Are you a Christian?” she asked. I said I was. Then she said, “I just want to tell you that if you are a follower of Jesus, you are more than a conqueror in him.” Bam! Those words breathed life into me. All thoughts of suicide left me and God’s unexplainable peace rushed in. ‘My husband and I will celebrate 26 years of marriage this year.’

Mary’s acceptance of the risk, reproach and scandal gives our struggles at least some sense of meaning of direction. The celebration of this mystery brings to each person the opportunity of renewal. This celebration should help revive in us the hope that supports us when depression sets in.



We are part of God’s big plan! Like Mary we are called to specific missions in life. These missions might be to be a faithful and faith-filled husband or wife, father or mother, grandma or grandpa. The mission may be to be a single man or woman with the time to extend God’s love to others. The mission may be, right now, to be a holy widow or widower, offering the love cultivated during marriage to those around you. The mission may be to be a good little boy or girl, or a good teenager or young adult, learning how to love as God loves, sacrificially. When we do our best to respond to His call, we give evidence to His presence in the world. He calls us to be the house of His presence (Bethlehem). He calls us to radiate His reality to a world that looks for a

Saviour.

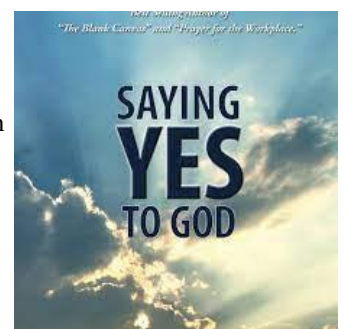
We are part of the wonder of Christmas! People in our families, in our neighbourhoods, people we associate with at work, people we know, and people we do not know, all need us to bring the presence of the Lord to them!

Gabriel spoke to Mary and the world waited for her answer. God speaks to each of us throughout our lives, and the world waits for our answers. For we are not Christians for ourselves, we are Christians to bring God to others and to serve God in others.

St. Francis said, "We are the mother of Christ when we carry him in our heart... and we give birth to him through our holy works which ought to shine on others by our example."

See you at the Christmas Masses!

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) |



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

Please note Fr Vince's last Mass will be at 10am on 31 December 2023

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Monday, 1 January
9am Mass only

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS



Christmas is fast approaching and all the preparations that go with this wonderful season are happening all around us.

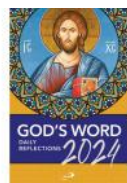
To celebrate this joyous event, we warmly welcome all the children to participate in the St Madeleine's Christmas Eve vigil mass at 5.30pm. We need actors for the Christmas Story, Angels and Shepherds. Please arrive at 5.15pm.

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

PIETY SHOP



God's Word \$20

Christmas Cards (pack of 10) \$8.00



2024 Columban Calendars now available \$10

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400 for any special requests.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,316.25
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$1,125.00 Loose = \$1,020.20

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

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



For the dearly departed: Vincenzo Luca, Joe Fuda, Maria Rose Napoli, Salvatore Napoli, Joseph & Lyn Napoli, Sam & Barbara Napoli, Ann & Chris Geniale, Yolanda & Sam Papallo, George Papallo, Ariella Napoli, Immacolata Agostino, Josephine & George Vumbacca, Domenico Franceschina, Norman & Chahida Hajje, George, Sheaddy & Chahide Hajje, Betty & Mary Merhi, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Abraham family, Michele (Lino) Russo Pablito Corpuz, Marie Pallister, 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

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

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 is a joyous time when we come together as a parish family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our parish **St Madeleine's** relies on the generosity of our faith community to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral, and charitable ministries and we are ever grateful for your support. Please consider giving a Christmas Offertory gift via parracatholic.org/christmas-offertory or scan this QR code.



The parish office will be closed

Tuesday, 26 December to

Friday, 29 December



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

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



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

NEW Diocesan website launched: The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

Christmas 2023 Diocese of Parramatta Christmas Mass Times: Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now! The Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition features reflections on Mary's journey into the dark night, how our communities celebrate Christmas, our four new leaders in the Diocese, a handy Christmas Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

It's not too late to gift faith, hope, comfort, and a brighter new year to people in hospital! Thank you to everyone who gave a Christmas gift to enable our 15

Catholic Care chaplains to give spiritual, sacramental, and emotional support to people suffering in hospital. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. With so many isolated, elderly, seriously ill, and dying people in hospital, our chaplains need your compassionate generosity and prayers to keep bringing the light of hope to more people experiencing their darkest days. Thank you.



St Thomas Becket

Feast Day:

29 December



A strong man who wavered for a moment, but then learned one cannot come to terms with evil, and so became a strong churchman, a martyr, and a saint—that was Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on December 29, 1170. His career had been a stormy one. While archdeacon of Canterbury, he was made chancellor of England at the age of 36 by his friend King Henry II. When Henry felt it advantageous to make his chancellor the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas gave him fair warning: he might not accept all of Henry's intrusions into Church affairs. Nevertheless, in 1162 he was made archbishop, resigned his chancellorship, and reformed his whole way of life! Troubles began. Henry insisted upon usurping Church rights. At one time, supposing some conciliatory action possible, Thomas came close to compromise. He momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a Church court and prevented them from making direct appeal to Rome. But Thomas rejected the Constitutions, fled to France for safety, and remained in exile for seven years. When he returned to England he suspected it would mean certain death. Because Thomas refused to remit censures he had placed upon bishops favored by the king, Henry cried out in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!" Four knights, taking his words as his wish, slew Thomas in the Canterbury cathedral. Thomas Becket remains a hero-saint down to our own times. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>



ST MADELEINE'S PLAYGROUP

St Madeleine's Centre
28 Annangrove Road, KENTHWEST

- Every Thursday during school term, from 9.30am
- Play and activities for children 0-6 years old.

- Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome!
- Bring a healthy morning tea and a hat for play.
- For more information, please contact Sarah - 0405 514 624 or Amy - aseychell3@parra.catholic.edu.au



Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from October 13-15, 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

2024 dates available on our website www.stmadeleine.org.au/sacraments Enrolment forms will be available in February. For any queries please contact Sandra on 0410 587 735 or stmads.sacraments@gmail.com



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| 23 & 24 December | | 5.30PM VIGIL | 9AM SUNDAY | 5.30PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS | 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS | MIDNIGHT MASS |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | WELCOMERS | Corrie Sebire | Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell | Corrie Sebire | | |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | Dianne Milington | Piety Rocha | Phil Hannah | John Puleo | Heidi Bou-Harb |
| | READERS | Justin Sebire Pat Waters | Ros Earl Alicia Shaw | Sandra Bonello Jan Schroder | Colleen Dunlop | Nigel Saunders Rosanna Ceroli |
| | JNR MINISTERS | Emerson Sebire | Anneliese Philippou | Grace, Madison, Oliver, Sophie | Aaliyah Ferris | |
| | MUSICIANS | | | Merle Fonseca | Grant Ewers | Jared Calleia |
| | COUNTERS | Sandra Tabone and Parish Team | | | | |
| | FLOWERS | Cosmo Murdocca | | | ALTAR LINEN | Rosa Carlino |

| 30 & 31 December | | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | 5:30PM SUNDAY |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | WELCOMERS | Corrie Sebire | Maureen & Rick Jones | Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma | Joseph Spina |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | Dianne Millington | Steve Fry | Phillys Hannah | Heidi Bou-Harb |
| | READERS | Justin Sebire Colleen Dunlop | Tony Hooper Margaret Mieczkowski | Rosanna Ceroli | Sandra Bonello |
| | JNR MINISTERS | Emerson Sebire | | Oliver Twyford | Grace Bonello |
| | MUSICIANS | | | | |
| | COUNTERS | Tony Hooper and Sandra Tabone | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | School Holidays |
| | FLOWERS | Parish | | ALTAR LINEN | Rosa Carlino |