



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

7th April 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 4:32-35

1 Jn 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

COMMENTARY: God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. On this Second Sunday of Easter, the readings invite us to believe and trust God's mercy. According to the ways of the world, mercy does not really make sense, but this is the very faith Paul speaks of as that which 'conquers the world': forgiveness begets forgiveness, mercy begets mercy, love begets love (Second Reading). Our need for, and joy in, such graces is echoed in the Psalm, where we can join with the psalmist in saying: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever!' The Acts of the Apostles (First Reading) shows that the mercy of the risen Lord continues to be poured out through the ministry of his apostles, while in the Gospel we see Jesus himself being the model for mercy for his fearful and doubtful friends. The US journalist Cathleen Falsani wrote: 'justice is getting what you deserve; mercy is not getting what you deserve; grace is getting what you don't deserve.' This coming week, let's pray that, though completely underserving of such a gift of grace, God's divine mercy will have its effect in us, freeing and opening us to love ever more deeply.

SECOND READING - 1 JOHN 5: 1-6: Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot us, loves the child whom God begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself, and do what he has commanded us. This is what loving God is – keeping his commandments. And his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world. This is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is truth.

REFLECTION: How am I feeling as I come before the Lord in prayer? I take my time to settle, to become still, as I bring my true self to this time of prayer. Whatever is going on in my life now, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me believe that God is already victorious. I read this letter from St John carefully, slowly, taking great care to notice what I am hearing, and how it is touching me. I pause whenever I feel moved to. I might be drawn to the word belief. Considering today's Gospel, does this word challenge me? Do I presently identify more closely with faith or with doubt? How does this leave me feeling? Love is mentioned more than belief here. Is this how I more readily show my faith, my belief, by loving? Do I feel Christ's Spirit helping me to love and to receive love? Do I trust this witness to his victory over the world, my world? I spend some time in the company of the Spirit of truth. I rest in God's love for me. I savour, with Christ, the joy of his Easter victory. I speak to the Lord from the heart, if so moved, before ending with Glory be . . .

GOSPEL - JOHN 20: 19-31 (ABBREVIATED) In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood amongst them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

REFLECTION: This Gospel lends itself to being prayed imaginatively. So, I read and re-read the text, before composing the details of the scene. I see myself moving through the gloomy darkness of the room to push at the heavily bolted doors. I taste the atmosphere of fear – the disciples were the targets of the authorities. I might even sense the shame of the group – they had also let Jesus down badly. Do I notice how they avoid one another's glance? I might like to continue to pray in this way, lingering in any places that move me; Jesus appearing, speaking words of peace, showing his wounds, breathing on the gathered group. I might move to the account of Thomas's uncompromising honesty, and to Jesus's later appearance. What do I notice about Thomas, or about Jesus's sensitivity? How am I responding to the events of the Gospel? Is Jesus saying something to me? 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you,' perhaps? How do I feel? I remain with the Lord, in a quiet corner of the Upper Room. We are alone. Do I want to bring something to him now – a struggle, a weakness, an uncertainty, a conviction? Perhaps I end echoing the words of the believer: 'My Lord and my God!'

Courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK

PARISH NEWS



PRAYER AT ST MADS

The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30am 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 the 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 9am-3pm or kenthurst@parracatholic.org)



SAFEGUARDING: All volunteers in our parish are required to undertake safeguarding training.

Training has been organised for **Saturday, 11 May 2024**

10am—3pm in the St Madeleine Centre
RSVP kenthurst@parracatholic.org

NOTE: This is for parishioners who have not yet completed safeguarding training

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on **Saturday 27 April at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains**, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

FRIENDS OF ST MADELEINE'S: Please join us every second Friday in the St Madeleine Centre for a casual morning tea. Perhaps meet up with some old friends - or make some new ones. Everyone is welcome. **Our first get together will be Friday, 3 May at 10am.** If you would like to come but require transport please contact the parish office on 9654 2260

CHOSEN RESUMES ON TUESDAY, 30TH APRIL AT 7PM - SEASON 3 - EPISODE 6 IN THE ST MADELEINE CENTRE

Never too late to join us

Enjoy watching with fellow parishioners

Everyone is welcome



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CONFIRMATION



Please continue to pray for our children and their families

Preparation Sessions: Sundays, 7 April and 5 May at 4pm. There will be a BBQ for children after the 5.30pm Mass on these dates.

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday, 22 May and Thursday, 23 May at 7pm.

Practice will take place on Sunday, 19 May at 3pm for Wednesday, 22 May and 4pm for Thursday, 23 May.

For any queries Sandra mobile 0410 587 735 stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

Please note enrolment forms for Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be available in May

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

News from Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation—Young Mum's Book Launch April 16th 10am-3pm. Drop in 252 Luxford Rd Emerton. Our local Cattai platypus story is the basis for the next Earthkin gathering 9am Saturday April 13th, 9am email sue@kcj.net.au if you would like the zoom link. Earthkin is a Parramatta Mercy endeavour to explore eco-spirituality in our times. Sydney Diocese Peace Justice & Ecology office is hosting an ecological economics/wellbeing economy event. Friday 24th May at the Leichardt office. Come and hear from Australian Catholic Anti-slavery Network and St Vincent de Paul on their work unpacking the Laudato Si' goal of ecological economics.

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 for completion and return to the office.

LAST WEEK'S EASTER COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$3,088.85

2nd Collection (for Parish) =
Envelopes \$915.00 Loose \$7,628.35

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS



For the dearly departed: Vickie Rose Camilleri, Joe Fuda, Mary Cumbo, Anthony, Rose & Lawrence Apap, Joseph Tallon, Joseph & Louise Bonello, Maria Giuseppina Panetta, Blanche Melba Cardoza, Dan Doyle, Martin Mileto, James Peter Quinn, Norman & Chahida Hajje Sheaddy, George & Chahide Hajje, Betty & Mary Merhi, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, the Abraham Family, Vicki Doye, June Brennen, Erminia Vumbaca

Please pray for the sick: Pat Brush, Bob Burke, Felicity Rafferty-Davis, Geoffrey Bolland, Miriam & Vansen Tsueng, William Chapman, Rocco Scardino, Kia Benete, Nathan Luezzi, Greg Lambert, David Tierney, Dawn Phillips, Yvonne Bolland, Brenda Riley, Henry Field, Aura Krakowszky, 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 in the foyer of the Church or email the office kenthurst@parracatholic.org

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Selina Calleia, Joan Sattler & Alexandra Mifsud

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Pauline Chacal

Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton

RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry

SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones
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
Safeguarding Champion: Brendan Ford

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Rev Giovanni Presiga

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, 10:00am, 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

9.15am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm

Baptisms: Every 2nd and 4th Sunday
at 11:30am

(Must make a booking)

Weddings: By appointment

*Congratulations to
Hannah & Cooper
on their wedding
this weekend*



Stay in touch through our
parish Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
stmadeleines](https://www.facebook.com/stmadeleines)

EASTER/AUTUMN 2024 CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE OUT NOW! The Easter | Autumn 2024 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition invites us to practise silence, deepen our interior lives and pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, seminarians preparing to 'go out into the deep', a handy Holy Week 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

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THIS PARISH
ON THE WEEKEND OF 20 & 21 APRIL**

SYNOD 2023 UPDATE: DECREE ISSUED AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIOCESAN PLAN BEGINS

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod

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!

FREE ONLINE FORMATION ON SYNODAL SPIRITUALITY: Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. Part of the FaithLIFE series hosted by the Mission Enhancement Team, the course offers an exploration of communal discernment, active engagement, and creative faith responses to challenges in the mission of the Church today. Enrol now and take part in Pope Francis's vision for a synodal Church: [https://pffarra.thinkific.com/courses/
synodal-spirituality/](https://pffarra.thinkific.com/courses/synodal-spirituality/)

MET FAITHLIFE THEOLOGY SHORT COURSE: FROM 16 APRIL Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16 + 23 + 30 April! Registration and more dates get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE IN 2024 Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation 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 marriage@parracatholic.org or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

St Gemma Galgani

Feast Day: 11 April



She was born on March 12, 1878, in a small Italian town near Lucca. At a very young age, Gemma developed a love for prayer. She made her First Communion on June 17, 1887. Throughout her life, Gemma was to be chosen with many mystical experiences and special graces. These were often misunderstood by others, causing ridicule. Gemma suffered heartaches in reparation, remembering that Our Lord Himself had been misunderstood and ridiculed. On June 8, 1899, Gemma had an internal warning that some unusual grace was to be granted to her. She felt pain and blood coming from her hands, feet and heart. These were the marks of the stigmata. Each Thursday evening, Gemma would fall into rapture and the marks would appear. Such marks, called the stigmata in the language of the Catholic Church, refers to the appearance of the wounds of the crucified Jesus Christ appearing on the bodies of some men and women whose lives are so conformed to His that they reflect those wounds of redemptive love for others. The stigmata remained until Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. When the bleeding would stop, the wounds would close, and only white marks would remain in place of the deep gashes. Gemma's stigmata would continue to appear until her confessor, Reverend Germanus Ruoppolo, advised her to pray for their disappearance due to her declining health. In January of 1903, Gemma was diagnosed with tuberculosis. At the start of Holy Week in 1903, Gemma began suffering greatly. She died at age 25 on Holy Saturday, April 11. The Parish Priest in her company said, "She died with a smile which remained upon her lips, so that I could not convince myself that she was really dead." St. Gemma Galgani was beatified on May 14, 1933 by Pope Pius XI and canonized on May 2, 1940, only 37 years after her death, by Pope Pius XII. She is the patron saint against temptations, against the death of parents, against tuberculosis, of students and of pharmacists. Her feast day is celebrated on April 11.
<https://www.catholic.org/saints>

INSTALLATION OF

FR VINCE SAVARIMUTHU AS THE PARISH PRIEST OF HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH

Fr Vince will be installed as the Parish Priest of
Holy Name of Mary parish,
6 Myrtle St, Rydalmere
on **21st April 10 am Mass**
by Bishop Vincent Long.

It is a very special day for Fr Vince as he enters the 39th year of his ordination to Priesthood. Everyone is invited to celebrate this blessed occasion and your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Fr Vince and our community. We will gather at the school for a fellowship after the Mass.

PLAYGROUP: We have craft activities organised with Bunnings for our Playgroup this coming **Thursday, 11 April at 9.30am** in the St Madeleine Centre.

All parents and carers are welcome
with their little ones

RSVP kenthurst@parracatholic.org

**Please contact the parish office if you are sick
and would like to organise a home visit
by Fr Giovanni**

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



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6 & 7 April

5:30PM VIGIL

8AM SUNDAY

10AM SUNDAY

5:30PM SUNDAY

WELCOMERS

Anne Kyngdon

Rosa & Tony Carlino

Michelle Eamer
Adriana Kennedy

Sacramental Team

MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR

Dianne Millington

Piety Rocha

Joe Touma

Sacramental Team

READERS

Anne Kyngdon
Justin Kyngdon

John Walcott
Nigel Saunders

Sandra Bonello
Sue Martin

Aaliyah

JNR MINISTERS

Jacinta, Amelia & Roderick

MUSICIANS

Rebecca

COUNTERS

Parish Team

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Lisa Gerard

FLOWERS

Wedding

ALTAR LINEN

Catherine Diekman

13 & 14 April

5:30PM VIGIL

8AM SUNDAY

10AM SUNDAY

5.30PM SUNDAY

WELCOMERS

Fran & Rocco Scardino

Sandra Tabone

Joseph Spina

MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR

Dianne Millington

Piety Rocha

Phillys Hannah

READERS

Heidi Bou-Harb
Robert Gerometta

Catherine Diekman
Eileen Sherlock

Sandra Tabone
David Hall O'Dwyer

Lidia Ceccato
Joanna O'Neill

JNR MINISTERS

Kerstin Grima

MUSICIANS

Rebecca

Joan

Merle & Doug

COUNTERS

Parish Team

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

School Holidays

FLOWERS

Wedding

ALTAR LINEN

Rosa Carlino