



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish

28 ANNANGROVE RD KENTHURST NSW 2156
(P) 9654 2260

(E) kenthurst@parracatholic.org

(W) www.stmadeleine.org.au

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9am - 3pm
Wednesday 9am - 2pm

8th December 2024 | Second Sunday of Advent Year C

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



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

All the people shall see the salvation of God

Bar 5:1-9, Phil 1:4-6, 8-11, Lk 3:1-6

COMMENTARY: John the Baptist dominates the central weeks of Advent. His summons, "Prepare the way of the Lord", has long been understood as summing up the message of the Advent season. But it is not as if we have to mentally project ourselves "back there" before the original coming of Jesus to hear the message of John. The hope that we as Christians cherish for the second coming of the Lord means that we can rightly identify with those in Israel who were the first to hear John's announcement of salvation and his summons to a change of heart. The trajectory that runs through the Scripture for today is clear in the way the Gospel, containing the beginning of John's summons, picks up and positions the assurance proclaimed in the First Reading.

MESSAGE OF CONSOLATION The prophecy of Baruch (5:1-9) echoes in a post-exilic context much of the message of consolation contained in Second Isaiah (Isaiah 40-66). Foreseeing the return to Jerusalem of Israelites who had been exiled and scattered in foreign cities, the prophet tells the city to get ready to witness this wonderful homecoming. The exiles will return like princes, carried on litters by their former enemies. The way will be smoothed by the flattening of hills and other obstacles, the desert will be transformed into a paradise to make the journey a delight. Detached from its original reference to Israel's return from exile, the prophecy later functioned as a vision of the "home-coming" expected in the messianic age. The Gospel for today, Luke 3:1-6, has John the Baptist announce its imminent fulfilment. He is "the voice" foretold by Isaiah (40:3), the one who cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord". What is particularly striking, I think, about Luke's presentation of John's message is the care with which he pins it down historically by mentioning all those rulers at the start: from the emperor in Rome to the high priests in Jerusalem. To relate "sacred history" to what was going on in the world at large is a distinctive feature of Luke's contribution to Christianity, both in his Gospel and also in his second work, the Acts of the Apostles.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD Luke in this way pointed the early Church to the world as much as to say, "It's not all bad out there!" Aspects of the world order at the time, especially the peace and legal structure of the Roman empire could be of assistance to the spread of the Gospel. So the salvation that John heralds and that Jesus will bring is not something confined to a purely spiritual realm detached from everyday life and history. It comes at a particular time, into a particular place and culture. As it works itself out – beyond the time of Jesus into that of the Church – it will interact with all the cultures that it meets, challenging them and transforming them as it seeks to bring the human race back to its true home in the Kingdom of God. Beyond the vision of Baruch, what John sees is not just the return of the dispersed Israelites, but the "way of the Lord". At the head of the new humanity, restoring it to freedom, will be the figure of Jesus. Those whom he gathers and leads will be "returned ones," not now in the physical sense of returnees from exile, but in the biblical sense of "return" which also denotes conversion of heart. Once again, this Advent, John summons us to the change of heart whereby the Church becomes ever more deeply the vanguard of a human race making its homecoming to God and its own true humanity. The vocation of the Church, as a whole and its local communities, is to be the "light of the nations", so "all humankind may see the salvation of God".

A TIME OF PREPARATION The **Second Reading**, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, again catches up Paul's sense of Christian life as a time of preparation for the (second) coming of the Lord ("the Day of Christ"). Noteworthy is the sense of the Christian community as a "work" that God, like a good craftsman, is bringing to completion. This is God's work – hence Paul's prayer. But we should not fail to notice his stress upon "improving knowledge" and "deepening perception" so that the community will always be able to "recognise what is best". Believers are not handed a perfect blueprint for salvation. In the ever-changing circumstances of human life and knowledge, we are summoned to a life of constant discernment: to ask what leads us to God, what leads us away; what gives us joy, what leaves us in sadness. Advent is a time of sharpening our sensitivity to the summons and calls of the Spirit.

Brendan Byrne, SJ, FAHA, taught New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Vic, for almost 40 years. He is now Emeritus Professor at the University of Divinity (Melbourne).

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: Sally Coppini

Finance Committee Chair: Carl Mathias

Safeguarding Champion: Brendan Ford

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Baptism of Primary Children: please contact the parish office if you have a primary school child that you would like baptised
 Register by Tuesday, 4 February 2025
 Baptism preparation Saturday, 1 March 2025
 Baptism Sunday, 9 March 2025

Reconciliation: For baptised Catholic children Year 3 or above. Enrolment forms available in February 2025 and all documents due in the parish office 7 March 2025. Parent Information evening Tuesday, 11 March 2025.

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

From this moment on, live the Eucharist fully; be persons for whom the Holy Mass, Communion, and Eucharistic adoration are the centre and summit of their whole life
 ~St John Paul II~

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope

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 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 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. Our CRISP team of Sue, Sally, Meg, Deb and Aimee have completed all the necessary training and have been offered to support a family who will arrive in early 2025. This is so exciting for our parish social justice journey. Thank you to Marian Piper and Meg Thomas who gave your time to share with us your work volunteering in Uganda. The SBS Seeds Planting Hope through Education is so worth watching. It was sad to see that Catholics For Renewal has shared a Farewell Announcement. It is hoped that the resources from Catalyst for Renewal will be available for the next ten years. World Soil day December 5th. Love this blessing, Advent is preparing to receive the Child God, a journey to God, to our origin and to the origin of all creation.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL - THIS WEEKEND

THE DEVASTATING AND UNRELENTING IMPACTS OF THE COST OF LIVING As households feel the continued brunt of unrelenting cost-of-living pressures and have no expenses left to cut back on, Vinnies members and programs are responding to increasing demand. Close to 100,000 people have been supported across the state by members over the last year. For many, they are living in a constant state of 'survival mode' and cannot envision a brighter future. Everyone deserves access to the essentials needed to live with dignity. Even in difficult times, people should feel secure knowing they can afford a home, put food on the table, pay their bills, and maintain their health. This is especially true at Christmas. Fortunately, the Society can offer the support people need with food, clothing, household bills and more, along with connecting them with ongoing assistance and services. Funds raised through the Christmas Appeal will ensure Vinnies can continue to provide a 'hand-up' and hope to those in need in the local community this Christmas and into the new year

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

For the dearly departed: George Cascun, Fay Megson, Dina Ratliff, Lukenn Sabellano, Margaret Caruana, Laura Iris Nathan, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Joe & Sam Farrugia, Ky Frendo, Goeff Burcham, Karen Bartolo, Leonard Meryment, John Nati, Frank Scalercio, Frank Agresta, Rosa Agresta, Teresa Maguire, Rita & Domenico Franceschina, Roberta Alumios, Paul Refalo, Hugo Cutrone



Please pray for the sick: James Hann, Faye Wong, Cutrone family, Joe Luezzi, Kalem Saras, Anthony Attard, Roy Cutrone, Frances Perri, Pat Brush, William Chapman, Rocco Scardino, Kia Benete, Nathan Luezzi, Greg Lambert, David Tierney, Yvonne Bolland, Brenda Riley, Henry Field, Aura Krakowszky
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

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

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

Please ensure your details are kept up to date

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 : 100000064

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.

Thank you for your generosity!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,547.40
 2nd Collection (for Parish) = Envelopes = \$830.00 Loose = \$1,425.10
 Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,864.38

Our Community

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER at 7pm

CHRISTMAS EVE: Tuesday, 24 December

5.30pm Carols followed by Family Mass
8pm Mass

11.45pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass
There will be no daily Mass at 9.15am

CHRISTMAS DAY: Wednesday, 25 December

8am and 10am Mass

There will be no daily Mass at 9.15am

NEW YEARS EVE: Tuesday, 31 December

7pm Mass

Our regular Mass at 9.15am
will also take place

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Wednesday, 1 January

9.15am Mass only

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PAGEANT 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass

For this year's Vigil Mass we will be having a nativity pageant.

There is a sign up sheet in the Church foyer if you would like to register your child to participate.

There will be short practices after the 10am Mass on 8, 15 and 22 December

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE ROSTER

Please put your name down if you are able to help

Draft Roster at the entrance to the Church

PARISH WORKING BEE: Saturday, 14 December

Sign up sheet in the Church

CATECHIST NOTICE—WHAT IS AN SRE?

SREs are parish volunteers who

- Teach and share their faith with children of their parish who attend government schools
- Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people
- Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people
- Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved.

In this parish Special Religious Educators (SREs) go into Glenhaven Public School, Kenthurst Public School, Annangrove Public School and Dural Public School. New volunteer SREs will be given support, training, teaching materials and will start as a classroom helper.

To register your interest please contact the parish office on 9654 2260



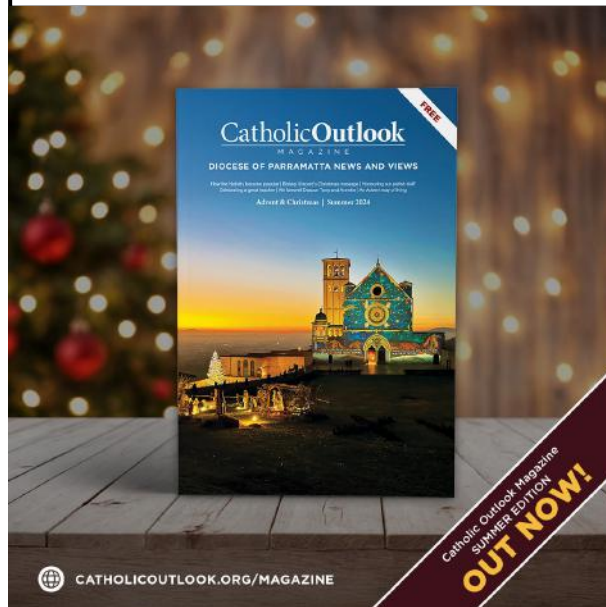
MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 5.30PM (FAMILY) MASS

ALL WELCOME! SINGERS AND MUSICIANS (non-pianists)

A practice to prepare for the music for our Christmas Eve
5.30pm (Family) mass will be held on:

MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2024, 7PM
in the church.

RSVP: Selina CALLEIA 0416 265233.



A big thank you to all who
generously donated to our
Dinner Dance

Thank you to
Bendigo Bank (\$1,650) and
IGA Dural—John Romeo
(\$290.17)
for their generous donation

Immaculate Conception Marian Procession: 7 December

Join the parish community at Our Lady of the Rosary Kellyville as they host their 2nd annual Marian Procession for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It begins with the 6pm Vigil Mass at the Parish Church on Saturday, December 7, followed by a candlelight procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Join us as we come together to pray through the intercession of Our Lady and experience a beautiful slice of Lourdes and Fatima right here in Sydney. All are welcome

PIETY SHOP
2025 Columban calendars \$10
Christmas Cards \$8 per pack of 10
Advent booklet \$5

We now have EFTPOS available
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 0413272400 for any special requests.

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



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
7 & 8 Dec	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Sandra Tabone Zakia Touma	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Pat Waters Colleen Dunlop	Alicia Shaw Catherine Diekman	Sue Martin James Harron	Lidia Ceccato Tereza Barisic
	JNR MINISTERS	Harry & Emerson		Georgia & Joyah	Luciana & Grace
	MUSICIANS	Rebecca & Chris			
	COUNTERS	Loretta Wilson & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
	FLOWERS	Ortolan family		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper
14 & 15 Dec		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	Heidi Bou-Harb	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Tony Hooper Margaret M	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Joanna O'Neill Tereza Barisic
	JNR MINISTERS	William & Maddison N		Georgia & Breanna	Grace & Charlyze
	MUSICIANS	Rebecca & Chris	Joan	Merle	
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper & Sandra Tabone		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sally Coppini
FLOWERS	Diane Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper	