



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au
Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



**23rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time
10th September 2017**

**Ezekiel 33: 7-9;
Romans 13: 8-10;
Matthew 18: 15-20**

“Sometimes, God doesn’t send you into a battle to win it; he sends you to end it.” – Shannon L. Alder

Having an argument with someone we love is not unusual. We all experience rifts of various degrees with family and friends. There are times when we all act insensitively and say hurtful things. The question is how we deal with those arguments and heal those rifts.

In an article in **The Wall Street Journal** (July 15, 2014), reporter Elizabeth Bernstein spoke with psychologists, therapists and counsellors about how to best make up after an argument.

One psychologist summarized the process this way: “You don’t want to avoid [conflict]. You want to manage it.” How? The **Journal** article outlines five steps:

First: Wait to talk. Give time for both of you to calm down. If one side is still “hot,” the other’s apology will only escalate the argument.

Second: Give up the idea of being right. Remember that each of you believes that you are right and the other is in the wrong. Focus instead on each other’s feelings.

Third: Verbalize your understanding of how the other person feels: “I understand that you are hurt because . . . “And ask if you are correct.

Fourth: Quash the impulse to defend yourself. If you apologise and the other person says, “Yes, you behaved badly,” just nod your head. Explain to the other that you really care about him or her and that you are willing to modify your behaviour.

Fifth: Accept the fact that it will take a while to feel better. Care enough to check in later. If each of you shows the other that you really care, the larger issues will resolve themselves. And *never* use the word “but” in an apology. “I’m sorry, **but** . . .” undermines the entire purpose of apologizing.



The point of both *The Wall Street Journal* article and today’s Gospel is that reconciliation takes determined and focused work. Elizabeth Bernstein offers several insights into healing a rift between family members and friends; Jesus outlines a process for reconciling a conflict within a community. Discipleship is the hard work of building community and the harder work of reconciliation — work that is grounded in love for the other, work that begins with respect and love for every human being, work that seeks God’s justice and peace above all. Gospel-centred reconciliation confronts those misunderstandings and issues that divide us, grieve us and embitter us, not out of anger or a need to “even the score,” but out of a commitment to imitate the great love and mercy of God. (Sampler Connections)

Prayerful wishes to you, all 104 children, as you celebrate your First Holy Communion these two weekends. I am proud of you as you take on this step of faith. The Lord comes to you in Holy Communion to nourish you, love you and fill you with His grace and joy. May you reflect God’s love, peace and justice in your day-to-day life, and strengthen your bond with the community by being a part of the sacramental celebrations regularly!

**“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians 11:26).**



God’s blessings, Fr. Vince

Pope Francis: Marriage is between a man and a woman

By virtue of its very definition, marriage can only be between a man and a woman, Pope Francis said in a new book-length interview.

"We cannot change it. This is the nature of things," not just in the church, but in human history, he said in a series of interviews with Dominique Wolton, a 70-year-old French sociologist and expert in media and political communication.

Published in French, the 417-page book, "Politique et Societe" ("Politics and Society") was to be released Sept. 6. Catholic News Service obtained an advance copy, and excerpts appeared online. Pope Francis said he wondered whether these new ideas about gender and marriage were somehow based on a fear of differences, and he encouraged researchers to study the subject.

"Marriage between people of the same sex? 'Marriage' is a historical word. Always in humanity, and not only within the Church, it's between a man and a woman... we cannot change that. This is the nature of things. This is how they are. Let's call them 'civil unions.' Let's not play with the truth. It's true that behind it there is a gender ideology. In books also, children are learning that they can choose their own sex. Why is sex, being a woman or a man, a choice and not a fact of nature? This favours this mistake. But let's say things as they are: Marriage is between a man and a woman. This is the precise term. Let's call unions between the same sex 'civil unions'. We do not joke around with truth." (Catholic Outlook)



PROPOSED CHANGE TO MARRIAGE ACT

Marriage is... The Church views marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man. Marriage is also a fundamental institution for all societies because of its importance in uniting spouses as potential parents and in providing for the upbringing of their children. It has therefore been understood as the union of a man and a woman in all cultures and religions until very recent times and is still so defined in international law and the law of most nations.

... To insist that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman is not a criticism of other kinds of relationships. By recognising this particular type of relationship our community and its marriage laws do not unjustly discriminate against other relationships: rather, our community and its laws recognize the essential connections between male-female bonding and child-bearing, and between children and their natural parents. (Taken from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website: <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite>)

Marriage is a Sacrament instituted by God and it has always been between a man and a woman everywhere in the world. It is God's plan and His Will; Inventing or constructing a different definition of Marriage is going to have a lot of repercussions on our children and children's children. We have the responsibility of creating a healthy atmosphere for the future generation in every aspect of their life. Based on what has been handed over to us down the centuries, and our strong faith in the understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, I request you to take a stand to uphold the sanctity of Marriage by our vote. Thank you for exercising your right to uphold our faith and morals. - Fr Vince

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1386.85

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1837 **Loose** = \$ 925.80

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 4697.80 (target = \$5577)

Father's Day Appeal = \$4678.95

*envelopes are still available in the foyer if you would like to donate towards the fund for retired and sick clergy.

Thank you for your generosity!



The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **7th October** at **4:30-5:30pm** at the St Joseph Centre. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260.

Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of every month at 11:20, or within the Mass at 10am on other Sundays.

Application forms are available in the foyer for anyone wanting to join the

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Please fill in a form and drop it in at the parish office before 30th September.

Please feel free to ring the parish office at 96542260 for any questions.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Bernie Crowley, Michael Peter Hooper, Neville Moodie, and Phyllis Dodd

For other dearly departed

Pietro Ceccato, Martin Mileto, Alfonso Juanengo, Grace Corpuz, Giuseppe Lamacchia, Virginia Grieci, and Sarah Murray

For healing of the sick

Ivan Ceccato, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Teresa Masiello, Johann, Joe Gelonesi, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Tony, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, Harriett Rogers, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Rosanna Ceroli, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Donard Doyle, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Giuseppi Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Christy Sherlock, Tina, Marie, Joe, Charles Vencyel, Maisie Hughes, and Christine Wilson.



If you would like Mass offered for your special intentions, please take an envelope from the foyer and drop it in the box or in the collection plate with the details. Thank you.

Our heartfelt prayers are offered to the family of Bernie Crowley, father of Jeanette Black—principal of St Madeleine's Primary. Mr Crowley passed away last Thursday. We pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

There will be no 9:15 Mass this coming Friday, 15th September, as Fr Vincent will be at the Villawood Detention Centre. We will have a Communion Service that morning.

*Congratulations to the children of our parish receiving their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION over these 2 weekends
9th Sept at 5:30pm,
10th Sept at 11:45am,
and 17th Sept at 11:45am.
Let us keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.*

VISIT OUR PIETY STALL!



Beautiful items are available at our piety stall for First Communion, as well as lovely gift items for Baptism, Confirmation, even anniversaries and birthdays! The stall is open after the 8am and 10am Sunday Masses, and during the First Communion Masses.

For special orders, please contact Sandra on 0413272400.

POINTS TO PONDER:

Can you rely on God to grant your request in some way when you and another person agree to pray about something? Do you trust God's promise?

Pope Francis thought it was important enough to send out an urgent request for all Catholics to join him in prayer when he met with leaders from Israel and Palestine to pray for world peace. Do you always remember that "if two or you agree on earth about anything for which they (you) are to pray, it shall be granted to them (you)"?

Pope Francis invited Catholics to join him in prayer for world peace, to participate spiritually in this great act of solidarity by uniting themselves in prayer with him on that special day, when he met with Israel's President Shimon Peres and President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas in the Vatican that Sunday afternoon.

As he stated,

In this way, the invocation for world peace, emanating from the tomb of St Peter, will extend throughout the earth. Let us be confident that the promise of the Lord may be fulfilled: "if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my Heavenly Father" (*Gospel*).

Pope Francis, [But who do you say that I am?](#)

(By Anne Osdieck)

OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY: 10 SEPTEMBER

The Australian Catholic Church lists Child Protection Sunday for 10 September 2017. The Sunday concludes Child Protection Week celebrated across Australia. As has become the custom each year the Child Protection Sunday and preceding week, provides a focus reminding each of us to play a part in protecting our children. The work of safeguarding and protecting minors and other vulnerable people is ongoing and of the highest priority for the Diocese of Parramatta. More information about this topic can be found here: <http://www.safeguarding.org.au/>

LITURGY OF LAMENT & HOPE 14TH SEPTEMBER CHRIST THE KING, NORTH ROCKS

Parishioners of Christ the King North Rocks will be leading a Liturgy of Lament and Hope on Thursday 14th September at 7.30pm in CTK Church. All are welcome to join us as we pray for healing and acknowledge the sorrow and suffering of survivors of child abuse in light of the recent Royal Commission.

MARTIN LUTHER – THE MAN AND HIS MUSIC: 21 SEPTEMBER

A concert commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be held at St. Finbar's Church, Glenbrook on Thursday 21st September 2017 at 7.30pm. Sing and learn about some of the great hymns composed by Martin Luther and other Reformation hymn writers. Performances by the Blue Mountains Chorale with Robert Ampt (Organist, Martin Luther Church, Sydney). Suggested donation: \$20, \$10 concession. Enquiries 4754 1780

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: 24TH SEPTEMBER

All Married couples are invited to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary with other couples and family members at the 11am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta on Sunday, 24th September, 2017.

The Very Rev Bishop Vincent Long will celebrate the Mass and will host a light lunch following Mass. Please contact your Parish Secretary to register your names by 18th September, 2017; or call the Life Marriage & Family Office on ph. 8838 3460 or email lmf@parra.catholic.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: 24 SEPTEMBER

The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Social Justice Sunday on 24 September. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy'. The Statement calls for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

ST PATRICK'S QUARTER

The Diocese of Parramatta is to begin major planning on a new multi-stage project known as St Patrick's Quarter around the St Patrick's Cathedral precinct in Parramatta. The project will consist of a new Parramatta CBD school, new Diocesan building and a new residential/commercial complex. For further information, please visit www.stpatrickquarter.org or email comms@parra.catholic.org.au.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: JANUARY 2018

Fr John McSweeney from St John XXIII Catholic Parish Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens will be leading a 15-day Holy Land pilgrimage (with three day optional extension in Petra, Jordan). Cost, details and further information through Harvest Journeys under tour code: 8PV03. Phone 02 9390 5460, email info@harvestjourneys.com or visit harvestjourneys.com.



Let us continue to pray for our application to build our long-awaited church!

May the Lord bless our plans and dreams!

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator: Amira Campo
Music Coordinators:
Barbara Mathias and Joan Sattler
Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil
Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Deb Rankin

Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton
RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry
Playgroup Coordinator: Grainne Barker
SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones
Friendship Group: Jenny Puleo
Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator:
Peter Balnaves

Property Maintenance Manager: Dan Doyle
Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone
Altar Linen Coordinator: Pat Brush
Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle
Finance Committee Chair: Michael Parslow

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

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Parish Secretary:
Lisa Echevarria

Sacramental Coordinator
Sally Coppini

St Madeleine's Primary School

Phone: 9654 6751
Principal: Mrs Jeanette Black

Marian College
Phone: 9654 6700
Principal: Mrs Jayne Campbell

St Vincent de Paul 1800 606 724

Parish Services

Weekend Masses:
Saturday 5.30pm
(Eucharistic Adoration at 4:45)
Sunday 8:00am, 10:00 am, 5.30pm

Children's Liturgy

10am Mass during School terms

Weekday Masses:
9:15, Tuesdays to Fridays

Playgroup –Tue 9:00am
at St Joseph Centre during school terms
Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the
9.15 am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm
Baptisms: Every 4th Sunday at 11:20,
or during 10am Masses
Weddings: By appointment



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For full itinerary information or to book please contact:

DEBORAH BARTOLO - TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

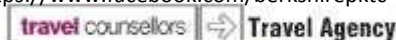
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THIS WEEK

	5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
WELCOMERS	John Cice	Rocco and Fran Scardino	Peter and Jenny Firkins	Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina
ACOLYTE	Len Gauci	Neil John	Phillys Hannah	
READERS	First Communion parents	Dan Doyle Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Gael Carpani
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Dianne Millington Maria Aiossa	Pat Lynch Tricia Spencer	Sandra Tabone Bob Burke	Selina Calleia
JUN MINISTERS	Christian Santelmann Josh Fogarty	Jack McNeil	Christopher Kang Kerstin Grima	Ellyse & Edward Noy
MUSICIANS	Bobby, Mark, Matt & JMJ	Joan and David	Merle and Doug	Youth Group
COUNTERS	(12 Sept) Sandra Tabone & Michelle Romeo		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Lisa Gerrard

16/17 SEPTEMBER

WELCOMERS	Judith Gauci	Maria & Steve Fry	Maureen & Bob Burke	Margaret & Michael Foley
ACOLYTE	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	Sam Ursino
READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli CareyAnne Moylan	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Nuri Wardrop Lorraine Ewer	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Lesley Gangemi Janelle Bawden
JUN MINISTERS		Jack McNeil	Maryanna Coppini Luke Masiello	
MUSICIANS	Pat and Bev	Joan and David	Bobby, Mark, Matt & JMJ	Youth Group
COUNTERS	(19 Sept) John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Marie Coddington
FLOWERS	Linda Pellizzer		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman