



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



**22nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time
3rd September 2017**

**Jeremiah 20:7-9;
Romans 12: 1-2;
Matthew 16: 21-27**

No cross no crown - Francis Quarles

A young man was at the end of his road, seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear."

The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief and said, "Thank you Lord," and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other room, he saw many crosses; some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. The Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in." (Author Unknown)

In the lives of each of us there may be something painful, big or small, something that we wish to be different. In the lives of each of us there is a cross. The term 'cross' can be broadly understood as sacrifice, suffering, pain, challenge, crises, obstacles, and so on. The cross can be caused by somebody else, or we may bring a cross on ourselves due to our choices. Or sometimes the cross is neither the fault of others nor ourselves, but because of the accidents of life or simply because we are human and do not have the perfection of God. Why a cross?



The problem of evil or suffering cannot be simply answered. It is a mystery. With our limited vision and understanding we cannot get the purpose and the meaning of suffering. Anyone who has ever suffered tragic and senseless loss or observed the disproportionate suffering that some must endure cannot help but ask, why? I am sure every one of us has raised this question at one point in time of our life. The usual answers we get are mysterious and hard to comprehend in cases of ineffable suffering and pain. Suffering is hard to explain or accept simply. The scriptures say how "all things work together for the good of those who love and trust the Lord and are called according to his purposes." In the gospel of this Sunday, Jesus simply tells us to take up the cross and follow him. The symbol of 'cross' that Jesus speaks (symbol or sign of Christianity) volumes and our lives can be powerfully and consistently moved by this greatest symbol. The cross is the dramatic symbol of our faith, hope, love, and forgiveness and it is symbol of victory over evil. The cross is the powerful reminder of God's sacrificial and redemptive love for us. And the cross is the constant signal to us of how God wants us to live and love today.

On December 26, 2011 fire broke out in 39-year-old celebrity chef Matt Golinski's house in Queensland. Matt's wife and three young daughters died in the blaze and Matt suffered burns to over 40% of his body trying to save his family.

Matt spent the next two months in an induced coma. Doctors were unsure whether he would survive. Remarkably, Matt survived his horrific injuries. After he awoke from the coma, he said that the love and support from friends, family and others had given him the will to live. Despite his painful injuries, regular rehabilitation, and losing his house, wife and all of his children, Matt said, "... I am grateful to be alive. I am now trying to look to the future and live a life that would make them [Matt's wife and daughters] proud."



Matt is looking to the future, and his wife and children would be very proud of him. In 2013 Matt was running again. He said that he'd like to compete in half and full marathons soon. Matt is cooking regularly, and working on a cookbook. He is helping other burns victims as well. In 2012 he donated \$100,000 of the money given to him for his recovery to help other burns survivors. What an amazing man. (Read online). As Helen Keller says, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it." Yes, you and I can be positive towards the reality of cross or suffering and share the crosses of people starting from our family to bring a little comfort, encouragement and hope.

I would like to congratulate all the men in our parish who are making all the efforts to be good fathers whether they are stepfathers, or biological fathers or foster fathers, or guardians. May you be the best of teachers to your children in the ways of faith and love! I wish that you don't fail to make the prayer given to you in the bookmark. Happy Father's Day! **God's blessings, Fr. Vince**

Let us pray for the children of our parish
who will be receiving their
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION next weekend
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.

*If you have the prayer card of a particular child, please drop your letter of encouragement for that child in the box in the foyer this weekend (2/3 September). Thank you!!!

**There will be no Adoration next Saturday,
9th September, to allow time to get ready for the
First Communion Mass at 5:30pm.**

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.

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL THIS WEEKEND!

(BISHOP'S COLLECTION FOR RETIRED AND SICK CLERGY)

The Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta assists in meeting the needs of the retired and sick priests of the Diocese, and an annual appeal, *The Bishop's Collection for Retired and Sick Clergy*, is held on Father's Day each year to support the Foundation. It is hoped to raise \$200,000 each year through this appeal.

Last year, through your generosity we reached the target with donations totalling \$205,000 and the Foundation thanks you for this contribution. This year the appeal in the Diocese will be held at the Masses this weekend.

Special envelopes will be available and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. If you wish to claim a tax deduction, please tick the box and write your details clearly on the envelope.

If you wish you can make online contributions at csfparra.org.au using your credit card or direct transfer via eft to BSB 067 950 and Account No 001691 in the name of the CSF with reference your name, and send e-mail to csf@parra.catholic.org.au with your details so receipts can be sent, which we usually do in January. Thank you!!!

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



May the Lord bless our plans
and dreams!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1446.90

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1876 **Loose** = \$ 1197.95

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 5008.95 (target = \$5577)

Thank you for your generosity!

If you donate to the parish and have recently changed your credit card, please phone the parish office on 96542260.



The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **2nd September** 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.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY
THE CHURCH. ALL OF IT.

In this week's issue of the Catholic Weekly:

- Monica Doumit: Same-sex marriage targets children
 - The Melkite Church celebrates beloved Saint
- Issues are available in the foyer for \$2 each.



Father Vincent is looking for a bicycle suitable for a 9-year old boy. This is for the young boy at Villawood whose family we have been supporting. Please let Fr Vincent know if you are able to help. Thank you!!

The older I get, the smarter
my father seems to get.

Tina Bassett

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Michael Peter Hooper, Neville Moodie, Phyllis Dodd, and Victor Rustia

For other dearly departed

Martin Mileto, Alfonso Juanengo, Grace Corpuz, Giuseppe Lamacchia, Virginia Grieci, Sarah Murray, Benito and Felician Sabellano

For healing of the sick

Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Teresa Masiello, Ivan Ceccato, 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.

Dear friends,

I am pleased to welcome you all to this Launch of the Diocesan Strategy called "Walking with Refugees and People Seeking Protection". This is an initiative that has been developed in partnership with several agencies working in the field: Jesuit Refugee Services, SVDP, Sydney Alliance, Refugee Council of Australia, House of Welcome and Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Protection. We aim to galvanise a faith-filled response from the Catholic people of Parramatta and hopefully from the rest of Australia also, in order to do what Pope Francis says, namely, to replace a culture of fear and indifference with a culture of encounter and acceptance.

I think it is fitting that this Diocese takes a lead on this issue. We are the most ethnically diverse Diocese and region in Australia. Migrants and refugees bring energy, drive and dynamism to Western Sydney. They also contribute hugely to the renewal and revitalisation of the Catholic Church. So much so that our Diocese boasts the highest participation rate in Australia. Where would we be without the vibrant faith and strong community spirit of migrants and refugees? One of them happens to be speaking to you. You can blame Pope Francis for putting a 'queue jumper' in charge of the Diocese of Parramatta; but I suspect there might be a Jesuistic craftiness in the appointment of a former boat person to a region of Australia which is politically sensitive to the issue of maritime arrivals. In Vietnamese we say, "fight venom with venom".

To many of us who care about the direction of our country, this question would be asked of us with regularity and intensity: Where has the decent, fair-dinkum battling-for-the-battlers gone? In a generation, we have gone from the universally admired, generous, hospitable, daring, courageous country to one of the most pilloried nation in terms of our policy towards asylum seekers. The New York Times wrote a scathing criticism against Australia's asylum seekers policy. The newspaper said the "ruthlessly effective" policy was "inhumane, of dubious legality and strikingly at odds with the country's tradition of welcoming people fleeing persecution and war". It said it would be "unconscionable" for European leaders to consider adopting similar policies...

Through this initiative, I encourage you to enact the culture of encounter, welcome and acceptance in practical, personal and communal ways. Many parishes and organisations are actively assisting refugees and asylum seekers. It is a great opportunity for us to make a difference and to influence government policies in relation to refugees and asylum seekers... With the men and women of goodwill, let us build a better Australia and a better world. May our endeavour to replace the culture of fear and indifference with that of encounter and acceptance be brought to fulfilment in accordance with God's vision of the fullness of life for all humanity.

(Excerpt from Bishop Vincent Long's address at the launch of the **Diocesan Journey for Migrant and Refugee Sunday 2017** at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills)



OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

POSTAL PLEBISCITE - A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

If you believe that the traditional definition of marriage has served society, families and children well, and should continue to be protected under the law, but maybe feel as though your voice has not been heard, now is the time to have your say in the privacy of your own home, on the ballot paper. Ballot papers will be sent out to households on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November. Vote No, to keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man. Please go to <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite> for more information and resources!

OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN MORNING TOUR

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Tour the College and discover how a Mercy Education empowers girls to expand beyond what they know they can be and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team. The College is now enrolling for 2019. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au to reserve your place or contact the Registrar 8838 1222 to discuss how your daughter can become a Mercy Girl.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN CCD MASS: 8 SEPTEMBER

All catechists and family members are invited to the Annual CCD Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Vincent Long and priests of the Diocese at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills on September 8th at 11am. Papal Blessings and other Certificates will be presented after Mass. A light lunch will follow in the Parish Hall. Please rsvp your parish coordinator or contact Maree Collis 98904731

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.

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

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.

Great hearts, generous hearts, are required in the family of God's Heart, because the difficulties in the way of doing good increase day by day. -St Madeleine Sophie

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Welcomers Coordinator: Amira Campo
Eucharistic Ministers Coordinator:
Eileen Sherlock
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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* School Terms 8:30am – 3:30pm
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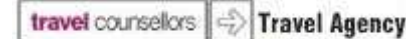
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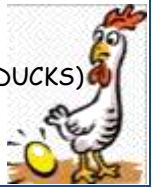
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|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| THIS WEEK | | 5:30pm Sat | 8:00am | 10:00am | 5:30pm |
| | WELCOMERS | John Cice | Margo & Sarah Doyle | Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy | Lesley & Rick Gangemi |
| | ACOLYTE | Peter Balnaves | Steve Fry | Joe Touma | |
| | READERS | Geoff & Jacinta Mifsud | Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle | Deb Rankin Roslyn Earl | Margaret Foley & Gael Carpani |
| | EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS | Dianne Millington Judith Gauci | Eileen Sherlock Michael Parslow | Bob Burke Marian Piper | Pauline McAlary Teresa Barisic |
| | JUN MINISTERS | Akash Arnold Monica Bruggeling | Sarah Eastman Olivia Easton | Christian Santelmann Christian Maait | Josh Fogarty |
| | MUSICIANS | Pat & Bev | Joan & David | Bobby, Matt, and Mark | Youth Group |
| | COUNTERS | (5 Sept) Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Sandra Tabone | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | Ann Marie Duncan |
| 9/10 SEPTEMBER | WELCOMERS | Trish Keating | Rocco and Fran Scardino | Peter and Jenny Firkins | Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina |
| | ACOLYTE | Len Gauci | Neil John | Phillys Hannah | Joe Touma |
| | READERS | First Communion parents | Dan Doyle Bill Dowers | Ann & Mark Lee | |
| | EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS | Colleen Dunlop Maria Aiossa | Pat Lynch Tricia Spencer | Sandra Tabone | Selina Calleia |
| | JUN MINISTERS | Annabel Rogers | Jack McNeil | Christopher Kang Kerstin Grima | Ellyse & Edward Noy |
| | MUSICIANS | Bobby & Matt | Joan and David | Merle and Doug | Youth Group |
| | COUNTERS | (12 Sept) Sandra Tabone & Michelle Romeo | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | Lisa Gerrard |
| | FLOWERS | Linda Pellizzer | | ALTAR LINEN | Catherine Diekman |