



28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst, NSW 2156  
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www.stmadeleine.org.au  
Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



**26th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1st October 2017  
Ezekiel 18:25-28  
Philippians 2:1-11;  
Matthew 21:28-32**

## DEFINING YOURSELF

Which one did  
his father's will?



The parable our Lord tells in today's gospel is pretty straightforward and easy to understand: A man has two sons and asks both of them to go work in his vineyard. The first son says "No" to his father, but later changes his mind. The second one agrees to go, but doesn't actually show up.

The Lord then turns to his listeners and asks, "Which of the two sons did his father's will?"

It's not a trick question; in fact, it's a virtual no-brainer. "Of course, the first son! The one who actually did the work!" the audience responds, and as expected, they're right. What the audience probably hasn't expected, however, is the message of the parable, which our Lord, in no uncertain terms, relays to them. They are like the second son, who pays lip service about obeying his father, but fails to put it into action. On the other

hand, the tax collectors and prostitutes—the sinners who have initially said "No" to God—are now making their way to God's kingdom.

The message for us today is pretty clear as well. It's not so much what we say, but what we do that defines our lives. It's not the promises we make, not the resolutions we draw up, not even what we tell the Lord in our prayers that will matter. In the end, it's what we actually decide to do that will make the difference. Our decisions and actions are the bottom line, not our plans or promises. St. Ignatius of Loyola puts it this way: "Love is shown more in deeds than in words."

I believe we all have a profound intuition about this truth, an intuition that emerges in our last moments on earth. In a recent TED talk, Matthew O'Reilly, an experienced emergency medical technician from Long Island, New York, shared his experiences attending to people in the last moments of their lives. He often encountered people so badly injured or so seriously sick that based on his years of experience, he could tell—just by looking at the extent of the injuries and the changes in the vital signs—that death was already imminent and that there was nothing more that they could do. The problem was that usually the patients themselves seemed to sense that their end was near too, and they would invariably turn to him and ask: "Am I dying?"



For Matthew, it was not an easy question to answer. During his first two years on the job, he was afraid that if the patients were told of their impending death, they would die in terror and panic, and so he would lie to them in order to comfort them. He would assure them that they would make it even if he knew that they wouldn't, but he never felt good about it. And so one day when one dying man asked him that same question, Matthew somehow found the courage to tell him the truth. He told him he was going to die. To his surprise, the man's response was not terror or panic. The man just lay back, closed his eyes, and accepted his fate with unbelievable peace.

Since then, almost every patient he has been honest with has reacted with similar acceptance and peace. Matthew also observed a couple of patterns among the dying. First, they would express regret and ask for forgiveness. An old man preparing for a final cardiac arrest told him, "I wish I had spent more time with my children and grandchildren instead of being selfish with my time."

The second is the dying's wish that they would be remembered and that their lives were somehow meaningful. When a woman who had been severely pinned to a vehicle was informed that death was near, all she could do was express her hope that her life had not been wasted, and that she had somehow made a difference in the world. From their brief conversation, however, Matthew learned that she was a mother of two adopted children who were now going to medical school, two children who would never have had this opportunity and would later go on to save countless lives as medical doctors all because of a loving mother who adopted them and provided them a life they never would have had. That woman died consoled by the thought that she had not lived her life in vain.

As Matthew has learned, our last thoughts when we die would be about **the things that we have actually done—or not done—in our lives, not the words we have spoken or the promises we have made.** Our decisions and our deeds are what will define our lives and shape the memories of those we leave behind. At the end of the day, it is our actions, the things we do, that will prove to be real, that will last and not fade away. This, I think, is the message that our Lord is also teaching us today. [Fr Johnny C Go, SJ]

***May you have a safe a relaxing long weekend! God's blessings, Fr Vince***



Let us together pray for the students in our parish who are preparing for their HSC exams. A book is in the foyer for you to write down the names of students you would like the community to pray for.

## Let the children come to me ...

(Matthew 19:14)

We'd love to see you next week at the **All-Youth Mass on Sunday, 8th October, 5:30pm.**

Stay for PIZZA and fellowship afterwards to meet some new people from the parish!



Our parish will be holding our annual Catholic Mission Appeal at the Masses on 14th/15th October. More information next week.



*Looking for some inspirational reading for the school holidays?*

### VISIT OUR VINNIES LENDING LIBRARY

We are very fortunate to have in our church a lending library of spiritual books. These can be a way of enriching our faith.



If you wish to borrow a book, simply take it and return it within a month. There are a number of children's books available as well.

Everyone is welcome to join the **CHRIST'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP.**

They meet every Wednesday morning in the chapel after the 9:15 Mass. For more information ring Pauline Camilleri, 0407 417 039



*Unfailing gentleness with all, patience in bearing annoyances which arise in every direction, trust in God which does not allow us to doubt God's protection on any occasion that we fear: these are the fruits of fidelity to the Holy Spirit.*

-St Madeleine Sophie

#### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$ 1104.05

**2nd Collection** (for Parish)

**Envelopes** = \$ 1710 **Loose** = \$ 1016.85

**Credit cards/Direct Debit** ave weekly = \$1935

**TOTAL** = \$ 4661.85 (target = \$5577)

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

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.

We would just like to remind all the families of the children who received their First Holy Communion last month that the Communion certificates will be distributed at the Masses on the weekend of 14th/15th October. It will be a lovely opportunity to say thank you to the community that prayed for the children.

Preparations for the **Sacraments of Initiation 2018** (Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation) will begin in January 2018. Keep an eye out for announcements in the bulletin and on our parish website. If you would like to receive an email reminder about the programme, please send an email to [stmads.sacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmads.sacraments@gmail.com).

*Let us continue to pray for our application to build our*

*long-awaited church!*

*May the Lord bless our plans and dreams!*



#### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

##### **For the recently deceased**

Giuseppe Barone and Bernie Crowley

##### **For other dearly departed**

May Qualter, Norman and Chahide Hajje, Sheaddy and Chahid Hajje, Mary Merhi, Hanna and Raymond Chiha, Peter and Emily Srour, Michael Mulvihill, deceased members of the Mulvihill and Culligan families, Martin Mileto, and Pietro Ceccato

##### **For healing of the sick**

Elizabeth Graby, 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.



## MINDS OPEN TO CHANGE

An idea that arises from today's readings is that of changing one's mind. Ability to change our minds leaves us open to hazard and to hope; hazard when we choose to "renounce our integrity and to commit sin, hope when we choose to renounce sin to become law-abiding and honest" (Isaiah.)

Today's Gospel illustrates the value and nobility of revising our decisions. The first son "thought the better of it." He was open to change, to better thoughts. The second son was set and closed. The ability to change one's mind is essential to all healthy relationships. A mind that is closed, whether from pride, stubbornness or stupidity, tends to destroy all relationships, e.g., when we refuse to admit a mistake, when we are unwilling to apologise and change our ways, when we persist in prejudice against a person or group, when we think we know it all. The second reading (Philippians) talks of a more specific and positive change of mind: "in your minds, you must be the same as Christ Jesus", or as an older translation put it, "let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus." This is the direction in which we must be constantly changing our minds day by day.

Paul emphasises one aspect in particular of the mind of Christ, his humble openness and self-emptying in contrast to the conceited grasping and clinging of Adam: "he did not cling to (or grasp at) his equality with God (as Adam did in Eden) but emptied himself.."

Ever since Adam, we have a strong tendency to cling to whatever we have. The new-born baby needs a tight grip, and as we get older the grip often gets stronger. Clinging permeates all of life; we cling to people (possessiveness); to things (greed); to power and position (ambition); we cling to opinions (pride.) At the root of our clinging lies fear and insecurity. The apparently strong person who clings aggressively to set ways or ideas is in reality full of fear. Notice your physical reactions to fright; you clench up and grasp at something or someone, as a frightened child clings to its mother.

In the Buddhist tradition, clinging is seen as the root of all suffering. When you are unhappy, it can be enlightening to pursue the question "What am I clinging to?" It might be an idea, a plan, an expectation, power, possessions, reputation, a place, a person, health, even life itself. All wise traditions recommend a light grasp of everything. Anxious clinging leads to misery. As soon as we begin to relax our tight grasp and let go, we begin to be free and happy. ("Letting go" is a useful modern equivalent for "self-emptying.")

Jesus did not cling to things. He knew that ultimate reality could be trusted, because that ultimate reality is "Abba, dear Father," and holding everything together, even death itself, are the everlasting arms. So he did not cling even to life,

"accepting death, death on a cross." "Into your hands, I commend my spirit." May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

<http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie>

Let go of your attachment to being right, and suddenly your mind is more open.

## OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA HIGH SUPPORT NEEDS CLASSES KIRINARI, Xavier College, Llandilo

WIYANGA, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas are accepting enrolments. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta provides an inclusive education for students, recognising that some students with a moderate intellectual disability may need additional support. High support needs classes provide students with an alternate platform that addresses their learning needs. Direct enquiries to Alma George, Manager Diverse Learning Needs on 0407233622/Alma.George@parra.catholic.edu.au.

### CAMPION COLLEGE COME AND SEE DAY: 4 OCTOBER

Campion College Come and See Day on Wednesday 4 October, midday to 4:30pm. Includes: guided tours; attend lectures; learn about the College. Registration is essential and closes on 29 September. Visit [www.campion.edu.au/comeandsee](http://www.campion.edu.au/comeandsee) for program details and registration

### GRACE & SILENCE RETREAT DAY FOR YOUNG WOMEN: 7 OCTOBER

A Silent Retreat day at Mt Schoenstatt for vocation discernment to Marriage & Family, Single Life or Consecrated Life. Commences with an input on love followed by silent prayer and reflection and concludes with group prayer. For more information or to register contact Sr M Julie Brcar: [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com) or 0408 738 334.

### LIVING LAUDATO SI—BOOK LAUNCH: 11 OCTOBER

The Social Justice Office of the Diocese of Parramatta is hosting a Season of Creation event: the launch of the book "Living Laudato Si" including a hands-on workshop offered by Sue Martin. Meet the author, Manny Bautista, on 11th October, 7-8:30pm, at the Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. Register online at <https://register.eventarc.com/39210/book-launch-and-workshop-living-laudato-si> or phone the Social Justice Office on 88383461.

### HOLY FAMILY FAIR: 14 OCTOBER

Food stalls, games, rides, and live entertainment. Free admission and \$5 UNLIMITED RIDE WRISTBANDS!  
10:00am-3:00pm at the Holy Family Carpark,  
254 Luxford Rd, Emerton (Ph 9628 7272)

### AGEING AND AWAKENING: GOD'S SURPRISING GIFTS! WEEKEND RETREAT: 27-29 OCTOBER

Time and age are the gifts of the second half of life. As the worn oak wine barrel produces mellow wine so the second half of life allows us time to notice and reflect on the richness of our experience of life – awakening us to God's surprising gifts on our journey. These days offer opportunity for input sessions, reflection and personal prayer as well as communal prayer with the Benedictine nuns at the Abbey. Printed material will be provided for further reflection.

DATE: October 27-29

VENUE: Benedictine Abbey 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo

ARRIVAL: Friday, 27 October, 3pm

DEPARTURE: Sunday, 29 October, afternoon

PRESENTER: Sr. Kerin Caldwell sgs

COST: \$50.00 for the talks plus accommodation fees.

BOOKINGS: Petrina 0242360533;

[cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au](mailto:cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au)

### DIOCESAN LITURGY CONFERENCE 2017: 4 NOVEMBER

The Diocesan Liturgy Conference will be held on Saturday 4th November at St Andrew's Parish, Marayong. The conference, 'Liturgy: The Living Presence of Christ' is an excellent opportunity to gather together as a Diocese and explore the Presence of Christ in Liturgy. Day includes Keynote Speaker and various workshops including: Music and copyright, Bringing Christ to the Sick, Scripture and the Season of Advent, Sacraments of Initiation – a Field Perspective., organising a Mass- Ordos, Missals and Lectionaries. For more information go to: [parracatholic.org/ofw](http://parracatholic.org/ofw) or Office for Worship [ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au](mailto:ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au)

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Issues of The Catholic Weekly are available in the foyer for \$2 each.

### PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

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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

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**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

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11:20,  
or during 10am Masses  
Weddings: By appointment

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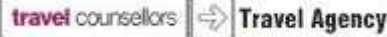


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		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
<b>THIS WEEK</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	John Cice	Margaret Thornton	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Rick & Lesley Gangemi
	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	Sam Ursino
	<b>READERS</b>	Paul Cashman	Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle	Maureen & John Burford	Margaret Foley & Gael Carpani
	<b>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Pat Waters Dianne Millington	Deb & Paul Copperfield	Bob Burke Marian Piper	Pauline McAlary Teresa Barisic
	<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>	Monica Bruggeling Annabel Rogers	Sarah Eastman Olivia Easton	Christian Santelmann Christian Maait	Ruby Kinchington Tiago Gregory
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Lance	Joan and David	Bobby, Mark, and Matt	Youth Group
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	(3 Oct) Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay Brooks		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	<b>7/8 OCT</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Peter Firkins
<b>ACOLYTE</b>		Vince Luca	Neil John	Phillys Hannah	Joe Touma
<b>READERS</b>		Stephen Kinchington Paul Cashman	Dan Doyle Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Youth Group
<b>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>		Colleen Dunlop Maria Aiossa	Pat Lynch Tricia Spencer	Sandra Tabone Roslyn Earl	Selina Calleia Jason Hatcher
<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>			Jack McNeil	Christopher Kang Kerstin Grima	Ellyse & Edward Noy
<b>MUSICIANS</b>		Grant & Natalie	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
<b>COUNTERS</b>		(10 Oct) Sandra Tabone & Michelle Romeo		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
<b>FLOWERS</b>		Dianne & Maree Bennett		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Peg Grogan