



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



Feast of Christ the King

26th November 2017

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25:31-46

The most important service to others is service to those who are not like yourself. J. Irwin Miller

Today we celebrate the feast of Christ the King! When we think of kings we think of people a bit remote, like celebrities or presidents nowadays. They are well-secured and mostly they tend to seclude themselves from the public. Christ cannot be put into that pigeon hole. He is among us and remains close to us like a thick friend. How do we know that we are part of His Kingdom? The gospel of this Sunday tells us that our practical service to the least of the brethren is the criteria of the certainty of our share in His Kingdom. It is all about what we believe and what we actually do. Every small action done in love to the disadvantaged of the society is counted to be a part of His Kingdom characterized by compassion, mercy and justice.

The story is told of a young monk asking an older monk, "Father, if God is infinitely merciful, how can he deprive anyone of his heavenly kingdom?" The older monk answered, "Why do you keep turning your head from side to side?" The younger monk replied, "Because the sun keeps hitting me right in the eye and just won't leave me in peace." "Then you've answered your own question," the older monk laughed. "God doesn't deprive anyone of his heavenly kingdom. Some simply cannot bear the light, any more than you can bear the light of the sun".

The vision of the last judgment as presented in the gospel reinforces the greater standard of loving service as the sole criterion for us to partake in the joy of the Kingdom. There are a number of things to notice here:

- none of the things Jesus mentions are religious in nature
- there is no mention whatever of any commandments being observed or violated
- people are condemned not for doing actions which were morally wrong but for not doing anything at all
- the actions are done (or not done) TO Jesus and not just FOR Jesus. In other words, Jesus is truly present in every person I meet. I am not just nice to this person (whom I may not care about very much) in order to do a "good act" which Jesus will reward and add to my bank account of "good works". People cannot be used – even for spiritual purposes.

The feast of Christ the King underscores the importance of being an actively 'loving person' without any strings attached. That is how God loves us. So, it is not enough just to fulfil obligations, religious or otherwise.

We are expected to keep going out of our way and reach out in love especially to those in need – the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the poor and naked, the sick and those in prison. It does not matter how they got sick (acquiring AIDS through a sexually-promiscuous lifestyle, over-indulgence in alcohol or nicotine) or why they are in prison (murder, rape of a young girl, terrorism...). These people are especially to be loved because they are the most in need of having their lives turned around. We are called to serve and love those who are socially, psychologically, morally and spiritually poor.

The picture of the Judgment in the Gospel is not meant to fill us with fear and trembling. No, it is a challenge not about the future but about today. The surest way to guarantee that we will be numbered among the sheep is for us to become right now a loving, caring, tolerant, accepting person." (Edited Sacred Space)



Mother Teresa of Calcutta put today's Gospel theme so succinctly when she said: "At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by I was hungry and you gave me to eat . . . I was naked and you clothed me . . . I was homeless and you took me in. Hungry not only for bread -- but hungry for love; naked not only of clothing -- but naked of human dignity and respect; homeless not only for want of a room of bricks, but homeless because of rejection. This is Christ in distressing disguise."

To claim that Christ is our "King," to proclaim ourselves to be "Christians," demands a clear and conscious decision by each of us to be active servants. Let us welcome Christ the king into every thread and fibre of the fabric of our lives.

Happy Feast to all!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

You are invited to share the RCIA Journey!

All are invited learn more about our faith.

We meet every **Wednesday at 7pm in the St Joseph Centre.**

NEXT TOPIC (29th November): The New Testament



SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

You may have noticed the fencing near the church doors. These have been put in place while the primary school upgrades their **toilet block** adjacent to the church. In the meantime, there are signs leading to the toilets we can use.

There is fencing around the **netball courts** as a new COLA - covered outdoor learning area—is constructed.

These projects are estimated to be completed by the time school starts on 29th January 2018. Thank you for your understanding.

THIS WEEKEND: Christmas Goodies for sale!

Stop by the table at the foyer on your way out to get:

Christmas fruit cake—\$20; Fruit Mince Tarts—\$10

Family Apple Pie—\$10

Proceeds will go to our various parish ministries.



We will have Communion Service on Tuesday and Wednesday (28 & 29 November) at 9:15. There will be no Masses.



JUNIOR MINISTERS TRAINING

By special request, we will be conducting another training session for Junior Ministers on Wednesday, 29th November at 3:30pm in the church.

Please call 96542260 for any enquiries.



Annual Friendship Group Healing Mass & Christmas luncheon for retired parishioners will be held on **Thursday, 30th November at 12nn.**

See you there!



The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **2nd December at 4:30-5:30pm** at the St Joseph Centre.

To book, please call the parish office on 96542260.

The last Baptism date for 2017 is 10th December.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1650

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 1855 **Loose** = \$ 682.70

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$1935

TOTAL = \$ 4472.70 (target = \$5577)

*****THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION*****

Thank you for your generosity to last week's appeal.

Your contributions amounted to \$10,079.95

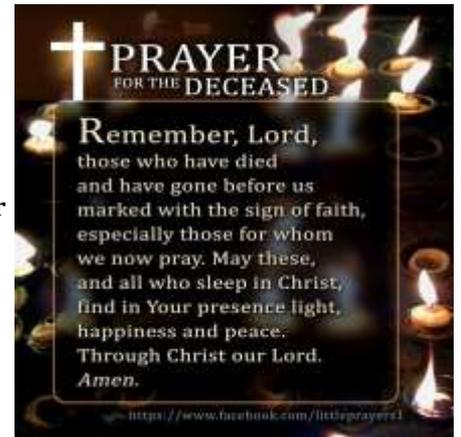
The Catholic Foundation replaces the Diocesan Works Fund and will support the formation of seminarians,

Christian education in public schools, job training for the disabled, single mothers facing homelessness.

There are envelopes in the foyer for those who missed out.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Throughout the month of November, we pray and offer all our Masses for all our dearly departed, especially those mentioned in our Remembrance Book.



TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AT THE WORKING BEE!!!

VOLUNTEERS THANKSGIVING SUPPER

The evening of Friday, 17th November, was a wonderful opportunity to get together with some of the many parish volunteers who continue to make this parish a closer community. It was a gathering of brothers and sisters from all the ministries that makes our parish run.



In addition to the delicious meal, there was enriching fellowship and a sharing of each other's joy found through service. Indeed it was an evening of giving thanks for all that people have done, for the encouragement that everyone gives, and for the grace to continue doing what we do—serving the Lord in whatever way we can.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For healing of the sick

Violet Hobbs, Ivan Ceccato, Dan Doyle, Tony Virgona, Bernadette McLoughlin, Karen Bligh, Elizabeth Graby, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Teresa Masiello, Johann, Joe Gelonesi, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, Harriett Rogers, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Rosanna Ceroli, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Donard Doyle, Sarah Biford 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.



Advent & Christmas



Let's prepare our hearts for Christmas!

*Come join our **Advent Reflections** in the church on the Tuesdays of Advent at 7pm.

The first session will be this Tuesday, 28th November.

We will be reflecting on the readings in the book "Chosen". Copies are available in the foyer for \$3.

*Come for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation!**

>You can join the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation organised by the North Deanery. These services will be held on:

20th Dec, Wed, 7:30pm at St Bernadette's, Castle Hill

21st Dec, Thur, 7:30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville; or

>You can go to confession on Saturdays, from 4:45-5:15 at our chapel.

*Bring joy to the **elderly and lonely.**

>Join our Christmas liturgies on Wednesday, 6th Dec:

10:30 at Lady of Grace Nursing Home

1:00 at Carinya House

>Mass on Thursday, 7th Dec, 10:15 at Bupa Aged Care

*Share with the **poor.**

>For our **Hamper Mass** on 10th December at 10am, please take a bag from the foyer along with a list of suggested items. You can make up your own hamper using a grocery bag, box, or even a laundry basket. Bring your hampers before Mass on the 10th. These will be distributed through the House of Welcome and to the Jesuit Refugee Service.

>Give to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal on the weekend of 9th/10th December.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

>For 4th Sunday of Advent—

Saturday, 23rd Dec at 5:30, Sunday,

24th at 8am ONLY; **no 10am Mass**

>**Christmas Masses—**

24th, Sunday: Family Mass—5:30 carols and Mass at 6pm

24th: Midnight Mass—12mn

25th: 8am and 10am; **no 5:30pm Mass**

(The Office will be closed on 26-29 December)

>Weekend of 30th/31st—regular times of 5:30 Sat, 8am, 10am, and 5:30pm

>1st January—Mary, Mother of God, 9:00am

St Madeleine's Kenthurst

Gala Dinner

FundRaiser for the New Church

Date: 16th February 2018

Venue: Oatlands House

42 Bettington Road, Oatlands

Time: 7.00 pm – 11.30 pm

Dress: Cocktail

Tickets: \$130 per person; (Book a Table of 10)

Call: 9654 2260 / 0402 280 890 or go to

www.trybooking.com/330786

Includes: 4 course meal, Beer & Wine, Tea & Coffee
Entertainment, Dancing, Live auction,
Raffles

Transport: Available if needed

The "Poor Door"

In New York City, housing is very expensive. In order to provide affordable housing for the low-income, working poor, the city has set up the Inclusionary Housing Program: Construction companies are given generous subsidies and tax breaks if their buildings include a certain percentage of low-income apartments, in addition to its high-rent luxury apartments.

One company's recent application included an interesting — and cynical — provision: In their proposed building, people residing in the more affordable apartments would have their own entryway — in a back alley behind the building.

A company spokesman explained: "No one ever said that the goal was full integration of these populations . . . I think it's unfair to expect very high-income homeowners who paid a fortune to live in the building to have to be in the same boat as low-income renters, who are very fortunate to live in a new building in a great neighbourhood."

A pastor of a church in Manhattan reacts to the plan: "Predictably, news of the poor door has ignited flames of outrage. But they'll die down. The poor doors in luxury buildings are just the latest manifestation of what goes on every day. Our systems of health care, education, immigration, and criminal justice all have their poor doors in the back alleys of edifices built for the more privileged." [From "The poor door" by Heidi Neumark, The Christian Century, October 1, 2014.]

- A Connections Sampler

The fact is that Jesus himself comes and goes through such "poor doors," that Christ dwells in those low-income apartments.

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

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 4th Sunday at 11:20,
or during 10am Masses
Weddings: By appointment

**Popular Dr Selina Leow
and Dr Darren Calleia**

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Santiago de Compostela St James,
Lisbon the Hieronymite Monastery & Belém Tower.
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For full itinerary information or to book please contact:

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|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| THIS WEEK | | 5:30pm Sat | 8:00am | 10:00am | 5:30pm |
| | WELCOMERS | Judith Gauci | Carmel & Mike O'Connell | Amira & John Campo | Helen Ross |
| | ACOLYTE | John Puleo | Steve Fry | Joe Touma | Jhun Javier |
| | READERS | Colleen Dunlop | Nigel Saunders Maria Fry | Amira Campo Justin Sebire | Patrick Tuttle Jenny Naglic |
| | EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS | Peter Balnaves Judith Gauci | Frances Sanders Margaret Steele | Ann & Mark Lee | Gael Carpani Bev Hermens |
| | JUN MINISTERS | Brosnan Leahy | Vincent Macdonald Olivia Easton | Lorena Campo James Whittle | Clarissa Vumbaca Thomas Barker |
| | MUSICIANS | Pat & Bev | Joan & David | Bobby & Doug | Youth Group |
| COUNTERS | (28 Nov) Paul Vella and Belle Craig | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | Christmas Party | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2/3 DEC | WELCOMERS | John Cice | Margaret Thornton | Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy | Rick & Lesley Gangemi |
| | ACOLYTE | Peter Balnaves | Steve Fry | Joe Touma | Sam Ursino |
| | READERS | Geoff & Jacinta Mifsud | Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle | Deb Rankin Jacqui Nisbet | Margaret Foley Gael Carpani |
| | EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS | Pat Waters Dianne Millington | Deb & Paul Copperfield | Marian Piper CareyAnne Moylan | Pauline McAlary Teresa Barisic |
| | JUN MINISTERS | Monica & Dom Bruggeling Annabel Rogers | Olivia Easton | Christian Santelmann Christian Maait | Tiago Gregory |
| | MUSICIANS | Lance | Joan & David | Bobby, Mark, & Matt | Youth Group |
| | COUNTERS | (5 Dec) Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay & Archie Brooks | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | Kim Parlson |
| | FLOWERS | Ann Langham, arr'd by Rita Vumbaca | | ALTAR LINEN | Catherine Diekman |