



**St Madeleine**  
Sophie Barat Parish

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



**5th April 2020**  
**Palm Sunday**

**Isaiah 50:4-7**  
**Philippians 2:6-11**  
**Matthew 26:14-27:66**

Dear Sisters and brothers,

How are you? Hope you continue to remain safe and keep connected to your dear ones through social media, encouraging and strengthening one another as we tread through this difficult time. Even in the midst of fear, anxiety and panic, we fix our gaze on God in great faith and pray that He might bring this infection to a halt through scientists and medical professionals. Most of us surely feel sad that we are not able to congregate to celebrate the Holy Week as a community. The technology comes in hand that we might still celebrate the salvific events of Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, his passion and death and the resurrection at home. I am providing you a few YouTube links and other sources that you might use in celebrating the Holy Week at home. This link: [https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy\\_Week\\_at\\_Home.pdf](https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy_Week_at_Home.pdf) might help you in celebrating the Paschal Mysteries.

Most of you are aware that **Channel 7 will broadcast the Easter Services from St Mary's Cathedral: The Lord's Passion on Good Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April at 3 pm and Easter Sunday Mass, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am.** There will be live stream of the Holy Week Services from the Cathedral of Parramatta as well. I suggest that our community celebrates these events in an intimate way and experience God's presence especially in this time of unprecedented pandemic.

We begin the Holy Week with the solemn entry of Jesus into Jerusalem known as Palm Sunday. Palm branches are a widely recognised symbol of peace and victory; hence we use these branches on Palm Sunday. The celebrative procession with palms gave way to a solemn mood where we heard of betrayal and denial, agony and pain.

Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday as the mood switches from 'palm to pain'. And "the pain is increasing" until it reaches its climax on Good Friday in a painful death on the cross. We can identify the mixture of emotions—joy, sorrow, glory and humiliation, life and death in this week. As Jesus went through these emotions years ago, the entire humanity goes through similar emotions of fear, anxiety, loss of jobs, loss of lives, impacting the routines of our lives. Even families and friends are not able to grieve the loss of their beloved ones in this horrific time. We are not even able to visit the sick given the restrictions. We adhere to the directives with a compassionate heart for the betterment of everyone. Let us bear in our mind that "the pain and suffering and death do not have the last say, and neither do they determine the final outcome. The final outcome is always in the hands of God who will be victorious, and in Jesus Christ who has conquered sin and death". We begin to see the ray of light and life in the finding of the suitable vaccine to arrest Covid19.



In the palm branch we see pain, suffering and death and yet it is also a sign of the victory and glory to come. The palms become dried up but they are repurposed for Ash Wednesday next year and they get a new meaning of renewal and transformation of our lives. We are not alone in facing the current crisis. God whom we believe is present with us; let us take time to recount His mighty deeds and blessings in our life; let us believe that this difficult time will pass. Here below is an article from Cindi McMenamin titled "**When Life Feels Painful: Finding Your Glory Story**" for your read.

*Erin felt like her life was falling apart.*

*Although she appeared on the surface to have everything - a successful career and ministry, a lot of friends, a high self-esteem - she recounted to me the pain in her childhood, the string of broken relationships over the past several years, her kidney disease, the repeated sicknesses, the hospitalization from pneumonia, the decline of her business, the eviction from her home, her broken marriage engagement, and now her diagnosis of breast cancer.*



*"Each time I get slammed against the wall, I pick myself up, dust myself off, and move on. I pray about it constantly and ask God to show me the lessons He wants me to learn. And still this keeps happening. What's wrong with me? Am I doing something wrong?" she asked as the tears began to fall. "When is enough, enough?"*

*I sat across the table from Erin not knowing what to say. The words of wisdom I had hoped for wouldn't come. The Scripture verses I'd memorized for situations like this seemed rote and cliché at the moment. Erin was broken...and there was nothing I could do to fix her. (continued on next page)*

As I watched the tears stream down her cheeks, I thought about how helpless she looked at this moment and how unlikely a picture it appeared to be. This self-reliant, strong-willed, determined, and very confident woman was finally broken. Could it be that she was now at the point where God could rebuild her from the ground up and make her a God-reliant, flexible, focused, and confident woman in Him?

I managed a whisper as I reached across the table and squeezed Erin's hand: "Sounds like God is writing quite a glory story."

As I drove home in silence, I thought about the "glory story" God writes on the fabric of our lives. I thought about the underside of that tapestry, where all the knots and imperfections are, so that the top side can be perfect and intricately beautiful. I thought of this God who has a way of weaving lessons and revelations of His love into the troubles that bombard us in life. And when we are determined to see that He gets the glory for all that we encounter, then the things we go through are not for nothing.

Erin's story wasn't finished. In fact, it was just starting. And a few weeks later when I talked to her on the phone, she sounded much more upbeat. "I think I know why all this is happening to me," she said. "I don't really know God. All this time I've been praying to Him and serving Him, but I didn't really know His character and the full aspect of who He is. Now through the chemotherapy, through the crying out to Him every day, through the way I've been searching His Word for answers, I am finally getting to know Him. I think for the first time in my life, I'm really experiencing Him." Erin may not have realized it, but right there on the phone she was already recounting God's glory story in her life.

What About You?

God's blessings, Fr. Vince



Although the threads of my life have often seemed knotted, I know, by faith, that on the other side of the embroidery...

*There is a Crown.*

-Corrie ten Boom

tenboom.org

## Social Justice @ St Mads

**Mercy Global Presence:**

<https://www.mercyworld.org/about/our-initiatives/mercy-global-presence/> has some beautiful prayer resources for us to explore.



The **Kindness Pandemic** was set up on Facebook as we need acts of kindness, this is a time to spread some kindness.

[www.facebook.com/groups/515507852491119/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/515507852491119/)



Pacific Climate Partnership is working with those affected in Oceania, their latest newsletter was out this week: [www.erc.org.au/pcp](http://www.erc.org.au/pcp)

Feast of St Isidore April 4th. In 1997 Pope John Paul II declared Isidore of Seville the patron saint of the internet. Isidore was a scholar with encyclopaedic knowledge. In his writings he sought to collect, systematize and synthesize all existing knowledge.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee that through the intercession of St Isidore, bishop and doctor, during our journeys through the internet we will direct our hand and eyes only to that which is pleasing to Thee and treat with charity and patience all those souls whom we encounter.

Father, we ask you this, through Christ Our Lord. Amen  
~Sue Martin



## Holy Week 2020

The way we celebrate Holy Week this year will be like never before. Many will miss the ritual, the ceremony, and the solemnity that comes with celebrating as a community. Throughout this week, we will be posting suggested videos on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat/>) so we can somehow go through this Holy Week journey together.

For those with no access to Facebook, please join us through these links:

What is Holy Week?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYTzVFjk-IQ>

Good for children

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu8\\_Zt5ir2o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu8_Zt5ir2o)

A short prayer for Holy Thursday

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivWP\\_ae4KIs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivWP_ae4KIs)

A song for Holy Thursday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj-mJdZUdIM>

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW1t7M8HKT8>

## ST MADELEINE'S ENROLLING NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN 2021

St Madeleine's Primary School is taking applications for Kindergarten 2021.

Enrolment forms can be accessed from the school website <https://www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au/> or can be collected from the school office.

### First Reading (Isaiah 50: 4-7)

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R.v.2)

(R.) *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him: let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet, I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Rever him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

### Second Reading (Philippians 2:6-11)

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel (The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfvUL4zCNlc>

## Linking You to Our Community of Faith

During this time of self-isolation, I encourage you to visit these websites to remind you that you are never alone. Our Lord and Saviour is always with you, and a wide world outside your home prays with you.

### For live-streamed or recorded Masses:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews/featured>  
<http://www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au/video-streaming.php>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/EWTN>  
<https://dailytvmass.com/>  
**For prayer guides and reflections:**  
<https://www.pray.com.au/>  
<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>  
<https://mycatholic.life/daily-reflections/>

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$ 15

**2nd Collection** (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 150

Many thanks to the parishioners who have contacted the office to change their giving method from envelopes to credit card. This is especially helpful now to keep our church going. If you would like to make contributions for the Parish, Project Compassion, or the Diocese, please ring the office

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### For the recently deceased

John Mifsud, Luisito Ponciano, Jeremy Vajda, Nanette D'arcy, and Patrick Ryan

#### For the dearly departed

Mary Spina, Eriberto Adan, Teodora Canseco-Pardo, Anthony Martin Pintado, Adele Conte Ceccato, Michele Vaccarella, Faraj Ayoub, Marylyn Ayoub, Suhail Khoury, Cescilita Villabert, Eugenio, Pasquale, M Teresa Loccisano, Giuseppi Mileto, Maria & Rosario Agresta, Giuseppina & Giuseppi Papalia, Domenica & Francesco Campanella, Vincenzina Americano, Salvatore Campo, Giovanni Cristaldi, Santo Cristaldi, Orazia Cristaldi, and Tony Boffo

#### For healing of the sick

Joe Fuda, India, Vince Luca, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Sheila Cañabano, Candida Irugalbandra, Florence Smith, Gregory Borg, Maria Peach, Paul Byrne, Andy, Patrick Breen, Jacqueline Kelly, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Samuel Abella, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Giuseppi Grasso, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Faye Willing, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

**\*If you would like someone to be included among these requests, please let us know by email or phone call.**



The Spirit is always speaking to us deep in our hearts,  
if only we listen.

-St Madeleine Sophie

## CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The actual office will generally be closed,  
**but we will continue to be virtually open during regular office hours.**

We can be reached by email:  
stmads@yahoo.com.au or kenthurst@parracatholic.org  
or by phone—96542260.

(We will check phone messages left after hours regularly as well.)  
You may also leave letters and messages in the locked letterbox outside the office.

We will try our best to keep you all updated about any changes  
in the operations and services of our Parish.

We will be posting updates by email, our website: <http://stmadeleine.org.au/>  
and our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our email list,  
please ask them to send an email with Subject: ADD ME TO THE LIST

## PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

**Assistant Priest:**  
Rev Jessie Balorio

**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 VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

### Welcomers Coordinator:

**Music Coordinator:** Alexandra Mifsud  
**Junior Ministers Coordinator:** Maree McNeil  
**Children's Liturgy Coordinator:** Deb Rankin  
**Baptism Preparation:** Angelique Easton  
**RCIA Coordinator:** Steve Fry

### Playgroup Coordinator:

**SRE Coordinator:** Maureen Jones  
**Friendship Group:** Jenny Puleo  
**Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator:**  
Peter Balnaves/Suzanne Kingston-Hunt  
**Adult Faith Formation:** Careyanne Moylan

**Property Maintenance Manager:** Rick Jones

**Piety Stall:** Sandra Tabone

**Altar Linen Coordinator:** Catherine Diekman

**Parish Council Chair:** Patrick Tuttle

**Finance Committee Chair:** Aaron Cauchi

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