



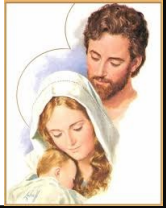
**St Madeleine**  
Sophie Barat Parish

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**29th December 2019**  
Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Colossians 3:12-21  
Matthew 2:13-15,  
19-23



## **‘The greatest gift parents can give their children is their love for one another.’**

The story of a young lad called ‘Johnny the weasel’:

*There is definitely something broken in Johnny. No, he didn't fall off a roof or anything like that. But without a doubt there is something broken in him – inside his mind or heart, it's hard to tell. He's suffering from feelings of rejection. When a young person is rejected, something inside of him is broken. Johnny is fifteen years old, the second youngest in a family of seven. He grew up in a large urban area. Ten years ago, his father left them. The mother did the best she could, but it wasn't good enough. Johnny was sent to his granny's to make room at home. There he had a room to himself and pretty well as much food as he wanted, but it wasn't home. He felt rejected.*

*He was in trouble from the age of about ten. Fighting, matching from school, shop-lifting, and so on. Granny did the best she could to control him. But she was getting on in years and he was able to fool her.*

*At fourteen he was into house-breaking. As he was small and able to squeeze into small spaces, the gang to which he belonged called him ‘the weasel’. By this time too he was drinking. Next it was on to joy-riding in stolen cars. Soon he was well known to the juvenile court. On one occasion he was sent to a reformatory for six months but when he came out it was back to his old ways once more.*

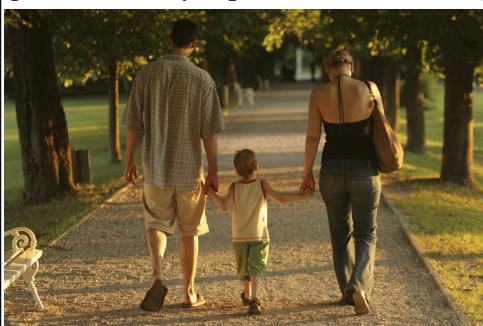
*However, just then a new lock-away centre had been opened by the authorities. It was designed for youngsters who had become hardened by crime. Its main purpose was to remove them from the crime scene, but it was also hoped that it might give them a chance to reform. Johnny was sent to the new centre.*

*Here he had not just one, but a team of professionals looking after him, all so-called experts in fixing up broken kids. There was a doctor, a nurse, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a welfare officer, a house father and mother, and so on. Each year it cost the state a staggering £40,000 to keep him there.*

Will all those experts succeed in fixing Johnny? It's possible but far from certain. And just think of it. All those experts could be got rid of in the morning. Their work could be done, and done far more effectively, by just two people! Two people? Yes, two people: a man and a woman. Not the Six Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman either. Just two very ordinary people – two parents.

What am I saying? This: that if Johnny had two parents who loved him and cared for him in the first place, he would never have been broken, and he would never have needed all those experts. The story shows what could happen to any child if his parents don't love and care for him, especially when he is young. At the same time, it shows what a splendid job parents do – when they do it.

Of all experts, they are the best and the most necessary. To succeed at their job, they don't need long years of training or lots of letters after their names. All they need is a caring heart. From the heart comes the sunshine in which their children will grow. No family is perfect, but no better place for raising children has been devised.



People who are deprived of the love of parents will suffer from a wounded heart and will be subject to bouts of loneliness and anguish. Children who are born into a loving home have deep soil into which they can sink their roots. They know their origins, and will always have a firm anchor in their lives.

Many children never experience unconditional love, that is, they are never loved for themselves. The message that comes across to them is: ‘If you are good, I will love you, if you are bad, I will reject you’. In others words, they are brought up on the fear of punishment and the promise of rewards. But this is the way animals are trained. Each child must be made to feel that he or she is precious to its parents, and loved by them in a unique way.

Ideally a child needs two parents, two parents of course who love one another. Parental love must not be over-possessive. The bond must be liberating for the parents and for the child. In the western world we attach more importance to having a nice home than to having a loving home. What use is a warm house if people are cold with one another? What use is a beautiful house if it lacks tenderness and friendship?

(Source Online: Sunday Homily)

With you I praise God for all the blessings bestowed on our individual family and parish community. May the new year lessen our troubles, bring more blessings of peace, love, joy, happiness and prosperity! As one big family of God, let us continue to build up God's Kingdom in our midst. Wishing you all a joyous 2020!

**God's blessings, Fr. Vince**

**See you at the New Year's Day Mass on Wednesday, 1st January, at 9:15. Please take note that there will be no 9:15 Masses on 31 Dec, and 2-3 January.**

## Social Justice @ St Mads

We remember those affected by natural disasters, the 26th December is marked to remember those affected by Tsunami's.



Something for the diary: February 29th will be the annual "Say No to Ice day" at Mt Druitt pool organised by the Baabayn Elders. <http://baabayn.org.au/say-no-to-ice/>

~Sue Martin

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

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY  
THE CHURCH. ALL OF IT.

- Issues of The Catholic Weekly are available for \$2 each. Copies are in the Piety Stall.
- ◇ A big year for Francis: 2019 in review
  - ◇ The Little Flower: Relics coming to Australia
  - ◇ Where we're headed in 2020
  - ◇ Fighting homelessness



### BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **4th January at 4:30-5:30pm** in the **new function centre**. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$ 1611  
**2nd Collection** (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1840  
**Loose** = \$ 1848.35  
**Credit cards/Direct Debit** ave weekly = \$2107  
**TOTAL** = \$ 5795.35

### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$5176.10  
**Christmas Offering** (for Diocese) = \$1630.50  
**2nd Collection** (for Parish) = \$460 (env) + \$5752.75 (loose)  
 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!**

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### For the recently deceased

Alf Barbagallo, Philomena Beresford

#### For the dearly departed

Maria & Gerson Dias, Marion Graham, Christy & Breda Sherlock, deceased of the Sherlock, Coghlan & Kinsella families, Pietro Ceccato, deceased of the Ceccato & Ferraro families, Norman & Chahede Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahide Hajje, Mary Merhi, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Felician Sabellano, deceased of the Pellizzon and Turcato families, Howard Langham, Youssef and Tony Boustany, Setna & James Mulvihill, Helena & Joseph Culligan, Karen Draddy, deceased of the Mulvihill and Culligan families, Sam Bartolo, Assumpta Dickens, Mr & Mrs Paul, Mr & Mrs Santhiapillai, for the deceased of the Buttigieg and Portelli families

#### For healing of the sick

Vince Luca, Tony Boffo, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Candida Irugalbandra, Sheila Cañabano, 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, June, 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, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Giuseppe Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel



THIS WEEKEND		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Margaret Thornton Maureen Jones	Teresa Capaldi Maureen & John Burford	Michelle & John Romeo
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Tony Hooper Gerry McArdle	AnnMarie Duncan Marietta Nesci	Simmy Cesamolo Jenny Naglic
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Kathy White Michael Parslow	Sandra Tabone Sue Martin	Trish Maidens Marian Piper
	JUN MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling		James Whittle	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS	NO MUSICIANS	Joan & David	Bobby & Mark	Bobby
	COUNTERS	Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	ON BREAK UNTIL 2020
FLOWERS	From Cosimo & Michele Murdocca		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Sanders	
4/5 JANUARY 2020	WELCOMERS	John Cice	Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Lesley & Rick Gangemi
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry		Sam Ursino
	READERS		Pat Lynch Gerry McArdle	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Pat Waters Dianne Millington	Eileen Sherlock Michael Parslow	Bob Burke	Lesley Gangemi Gael Carpani
	JUN MINISTERS			Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi	Tiago Gregory Hannah Tran
	MUSICIANS	Lisa J	Joan & David	Bobby & Mark	NO MUSICIANS
	COUNTERS	Frank & Ivanka Valencic, Kay & Archie Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	ON BREAK
	FLOWERS	Teresa Capaldi		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Sanders

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