



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au
Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm



18th August 2019

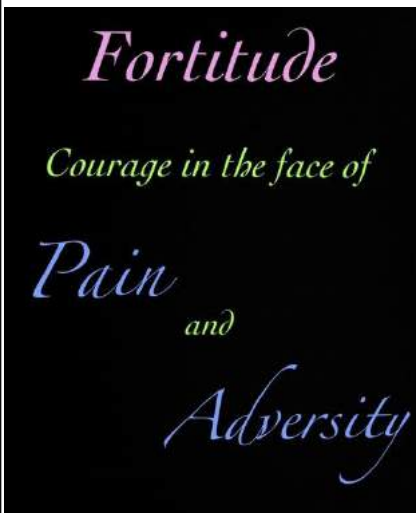
20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Gird your hearts with silent fortitude, suffering yet hoping all things

- Felicia Hemans

Of all the prophets of the Old Testament, Jeremiah was probably the most misunderstood and mistreated. He had the misfortune of living at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Babylonians (586 BC), and of having to preach about this coming destruction to his fellow Hebrews, who refused to listen to him and considered him to be a traitor. But he did not reject his prophetic mission from God, and kept on preaching until the end.



Jeremiah, like all holy men and women, had an essential virtue which we can all imitate: the virtue of fortitude. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good" (CCC, no. 1808). We admire people with strength of character who keep struggling to achieve a noble goal. It is the virtue of the athlete, the soldier, the mountain climber, and above all, of the saint. Saints are men and women who don't quit or run away when they face obstacles, either from the outside or the inside (their own fears and hesitations).

Good parents should teach fortitude and endurance to their children. They set guidelines for proper behaviour at home, along with certain tasks and duties. By mutual agreement, they also enforce consequences for children who are lazy, disobedient, or disrespectful. Without such training, children will often expect others to serve them in the years ahead, and will become selfish and unhappy persons. In a word, they will be spoiled because they were not taught to be responsible.

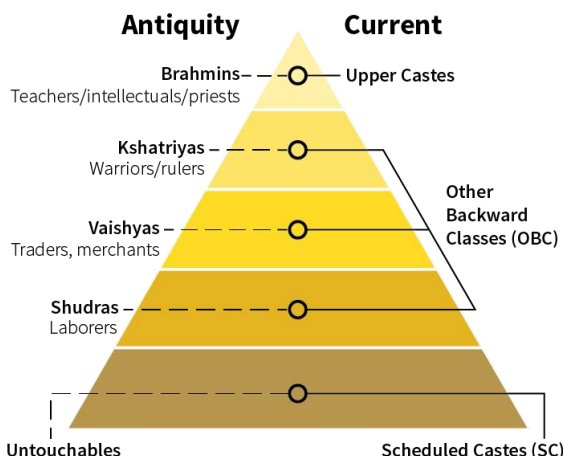
The followers of Christ need to be strong not only in human tasks, but also in spiritual ones. At times it will not be easy to get up and go to Mass on a cold and rainy Sunday. It will not be easy to commit to a daily plan of prayer, or to increase our study of the Catholic faith. It will not be easy to be patient and kind with people who annoy us. For this kind of strength, in both big and little things, we need God's grace. (Source: Homiletic and Pastoral Review).

Just to share with you my own experience: Growing up in a big family of 15, including my parents and grandpa, was not easy, but at the same time pleasant for me. Being a low-middle class family, we had to face a lot of difficulties in every aspect of life. But those occasions taught us the virtue of fortitude: to face the difficulties and inconveniences of life with the strength of faith. No one prefers to have a difficult life, but life floods us with storms and droughts which in turn shape our character and personality. In my priestly life and ministry, I have encountered heaps of difficulties like any other, irrespective of the nature and status of life. Reflecting back, I see the powerful, compassionate hand of God enabling me to tread the paths.

I was sent to the parish of Kamuthi (Diocese of Sivagangai, South India), where the demography was lower caste. (The caste system is still strong in India.) This parish was so peculiar, as there were three divisions, even

in the lower caste, and I could see all the divisions in the parish. One Justice Sunday, I remember, I preached on the injustices done to those people within the parish in the sense that they were not included in the significant celebrations of the parish by the parishioners in the main centre. When I touched the topic, after the Mass, there was a revolt. They came to the sacristy when I was unveiling my vestments, and asked "Father, how can you preach like this?"

I said, "Because that's what is happening in our parish. Those people are also made in the image and likeness of God and they are to be respected and included in parish life. Being a Christian, you can't exclude them on the basis of caste or any other factor. The problem is that you don't consider them at all as a part of the wider community." [continued on next page]



One of the young people said "Father, this is not the way you should preach. You should just preach about Jesus and God, that's all. Don't touch our lives."

I said, "No, I will."

In the face of such chaos and confusion, I was even offered to transfer to another parish, which I declined. I remember telling the Vicar of the Diocese that I was not ready for any move from the parish just because of this issue or concern. The rest is history. Similar experiences in the mission field have cemented my faith and ministry. The God we believe in continues to lead me in my priestly life and ministry.

In our lives many situations arise in which it becomes difficult to do the right thing, even when we know what it is. There may be all sorts of reasons for why it is disagreeable to act according to what we know is best. In order to stay strong, to do what is good, we need the cardinal virtue, known alternately as fortitude, courage, or bravery. This is the virtue by which we do the right thing, even in the midst of hardship. Let us pray that God gifts us with the virtue of Fortitude which is direly needed today!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

Update

Thank you to everyone who has given donations for the new church building. If you would like to give your donation, please ring the office.



The Blessing of the new church will be held on 24th November 2019, 10am on the Feast of Christ the King!

All are invited to a session on "**Christian Leadership**" with Fr Paul Roberts of the Institute for Mission, **on 4th September, Wednesday, from 6:45pm at the St Joseph Centre.** (All ministry volunteers are expected to attend.) Supper will be provided. To confirm numbers, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

PARISH PLANNED GIVING



New **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES** are now available in the foyer. Please pick up your new box on your way out. If you could deliver envelopes in your area, that would be a big help to the parish.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:
1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1469.55
2nd Collection (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1651
Loose = \$ 1036.05
Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2107
TOTAL = \$4794.05 (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!


Social Justice @ St Mads

Congratulations to the ag team at Marian College, who are celebrating the establishment of their bee hives. They will be wonderful pollinators for all our gardens. Bee populations around the world are seriously declining due to pests, chemicals and disease. Bees are responsible for approximately 70% of the food we eat, hence a real threat is placed on humanity if we lose bees. We are very lucky at Marian to have this bee installation so we can educate the next generation about bee keeping, living in harmony and promoting our pollinators. See Foodfaith: <https://foodfaith.com.au/> for more information on the Bee & Bee Highway project.



~Sue Martin

BAPTISM PREPARATION:
The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **7th Sept** at **4:30-5:30pm** at St Joseph Centre. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260. Thank you. (Baptisms in September will be on the 29th, not the 22nd.)



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased
Francis Xavier Sacco and Pietro Colussi

For the dearly departed
John Hennessy, Immacolata & Oreste, Amministratore & Rosa Maria & Francesco Nati, Theresa Caruana, Anthony Vella, Nenu Zammit, Laurie Keating, Maree Weisemes, Maria Aioffa, Sarah T Murray, Mary E Bradley, Dan Doyle, Ivan Ceccato, Estela Juanengo, Helena Culligan, Norman & Chahade Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahede Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, and Mary Merhi

For healing of the sick
Sheila Cañabano, 10-mo old 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, Giuseppi Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

Special prayers for Joan Carroll



Marble

There was this museum laid with beautiful marble tiles, with a huge marble statue displayed in the middle of the lobby. Many people came from all over the world just to admire this statue. One night, the marble tiles started talking to the marble statue.

Tiles: Hey statue, it's just not fair. Why does everybody from all over the world come all the way here just to step on me while admiring you?

Marble Statue: My dear friend, marble tile, do you still remember that we were actually from the same cave?

Tile: Yeah! That's why I feel it is even more unfair. We were born from the same cave and yet we receive different treatment now. Not fair!

Statue: Then, do you still remember the day when the designer tried to work on you but you resisted the tools?

Marble Tiles: Yes, I hate that guy, how could he use those tools on me?

Statue: Well, he couldn't work on you. He decided to give up on you and start working on me instead; I knew at once that I would be something different after his efforts. I bore all the painful tools he used on me!

Marble Statue continued: My friend, there is a price to everything in life, since you decided to give up half-way, you can't blame anybody who steps on you now!



LISTENING CIRCLES

The Northern Deanery invites all parishioners of St Madeleine's to join our first Listening Circle at **2:00pm Saturday 24 August 2019, at Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish Centre, 1 Canyon Rd Baulkham Hills**. Discussions will be confidential. Fr Vincent and the Parish Pastoral Council are supporting this initiative.



A personal statement: 'I attended the Listening Circle in my parish in 2017. I had certain misgivings prior to going to the gathering, but during the session, I found it so different to any meeting I had attended. We were seated in groups of six people with a facilitator. I held a talking piece and so could not be interrupted. I paused to find my words. I wept a little. It was liberating.' (Peter)

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

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 \$195,000 and the Foundation thanks you for this contribution. This year the appeal in the Diocese will be held on the **weekend of August 31- September 1**.

Appeal envelopes will be available next week for those who will not be here on the Father's Day weekend. 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@parracatholic.org with your details so receipts can be sent, which we usually do in January.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020:

The National Centre for Pastoral Research has just published *Listen to what the Spirit is saying*, the final report of the Listening and Dialogue stage of the Plenary Council. The report captures the voices of the more than 222,000 people who shared their submissions, questions and stories of faith during the 10-month process. Access the report at:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/reports

If you need more info feel free to email families@schoenstatt.org.au

DISCOVERING GLOBAL MISSION

How can our skills create better opportunities for disadvantaged people? Communities in Timor Leste, PNG, Samoa, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to build local capacity. These assignments are not quick fixes. Find out how Blue Mountains couple Lukas and Kristina increased and expanded services for people with disabilities in Dili, Timor Leste, and how sharing your skills can immerse you in a world of deep cultural discovery.

Qualified medics, teachers, tradies, business and admins are always required.

Palms Meet and Greet: Sunday September 1st @ 10:30am

The Heritage Terrace Café, Westfield, 585 High St, PENRITH www.palms.org.au

2019 FAITH IN MARRIAGE SEMINAR: 30 AUGUST

American Catholic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is the guest speaker at The Life, Family and Marriage Office's 2019 Faith in Marriage Seminar on Friday 30 August at St Paul's Catholic College Hall, Greystanes from 7.30pm. Free entry and a light supper will be served afterwards. Donations are welcome. Please register your attendance to 02 8838 3460 or lmf@parracatholic.org

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

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY
THE CHURCH. ALL OF IT.

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

- ◇ THANK YOU to all the NSW politicians who voted for life
- ◇ How millennials are connecting with the Church
- ◇ Berala celebrates
- ◇ Francis's letter to priests
- ◇ Movie review: *Unplanned*
- ◇ Spring Reading Guide

Courage and confidence!
I cannot repeat this war-cry too often. We should make it our support in our life of conflict.
-St Madeleine Sophie

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: Grainne Barker

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: Angelo Roia

Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Michael Parslow

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THIS WEEKEND		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	Judith Gauci	Charlie & Helen Harb	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Joseph Spina
	ACOLYTE	Len Gauci		Jhun Javier	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Jenny Naglic Joanna O'Neil
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Nuri Wardrop Lorraine Ewer	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Marian Piper Trish Maidens
	JUN MINISTERS		Patrick McNeil	James Whittle	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS	No musicians	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, and JMJ	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
FLOWERS	Linda Boffo-Pellizzer		ALTAR LINEN	Peg Grogan	
23/24 AUGUST	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Amira & John Campo	Helen Ross
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil		Jhun Javier
	READERS	Justin & Anne Kyngdon	Nigel Saunders	Amira Campo Careyanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Trish Keating Anne Kyngdon	Frances Sanders Margaret Steele	Ann & Mark Lee	Tereza Barisic Trish Maidens
	JUN MINISTERS	Annabelle & Matilda Rogers Addison Bayly-Pike	Patrick McNeil	Lorena Campo	James Barker
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella and Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Anmarie Duncan
	FLOWERS	Cosimo Murdocca		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold