



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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



8th September 2019

23rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9:13-18
Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

“Our Christian life began not with our decision to follow Christ but with God's call to us to do so.” -John Stott

Some of us may get offended or shocked by the words of Jesus asking us to ‘hate’ our dearest and nearest and follow him. With the nuance of the eastern language, we get the real meaning and the implication of Jesus’ words to hate our beloved ones in our desire to follow him. What is implicated in the words of Jesus is that no love in life can compare with the love we must bear to GOD. Christ knew if anyone who followed him had him in second priority, or lower, then when the first of many challenges, threats and suffering came along, these people would fall away swiftly.



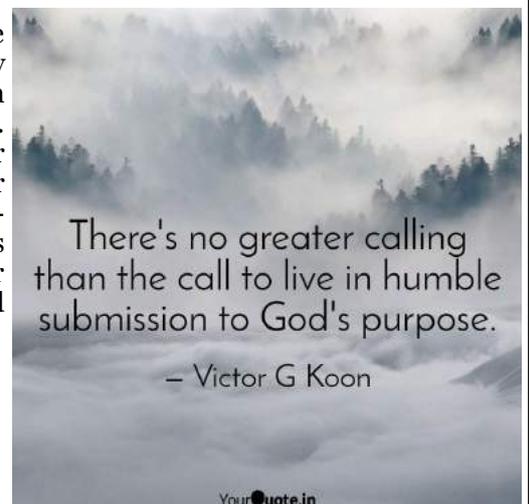
In a certain American town, a college student was told that because of his excellence as a basketball player, with hard work and dedication he could become a famous and rich sportsman. But he amazed his family and friends, not to mention his college coach when he turned his back on a sporting career and chose to become a doctor. He said that he wanted to work with the poor people in his city. In the light of the gospel, this person had chosen ‘to hate’ a career as a sportsman for the sake of loving God in the love of the poor people in his city.

Jesus’ constant practical example and his wider teachings show us that we must love and cherish our family and loyally keep our commitments and our duties that we owe to our parents and family. Our Lord saved one of his most stinging criticisms for people who used religious excuses to justify neglecting their duty to their parents and family. So, when our Lord says in the Gospel that we should ‘hate our lives or families’, the actual point of Jesus’ message today is not to reject or abandon the bonds of the family, the ties of blood, but actually to WIDEN our vision of FAMILY. So, Jesus is telling his disciples that HIS definition of “family” includes not only our traditional ties of “blood relations” but also all who follow Jesus and act on his word—all who hold the values of the Kingdom, and in fact all people.

As we envisage to go outside the so-called norms of society in including outsiders and strangers in today’s context, there will be a bit of ‘hating’ from the rest of the society. Hatred and persecution will come from those who are very comfortable with things as they are. A change in this situation will be detrimental to them and helpful to everyone else. And they will not stand for it. The plain truth is: Our goal is not merely to be a good person and avoid doing wrong. Being a disciple of Jesus is the goal. Discipleship is an expensive proposition. It costs everything we have. (Jesus needs us to give all we have in energy and time). Why is the price so high? Because the stakes are just as high. And his Kingdom is filled with the wonderful values and virtues that are worth fighting for and are life-giving and lasting.

In Our Lord's Kingdom, water is thicker than blood. In the Kingdom, the waters of Baptism bind us more closely and are infinitely more important than even the utterly-deep ties of family. And so this turns the whole system on its head. If people everywhere extended to all those we meet, that same love, loyalty and unconditional bond of generosity that we share with people who are related to us, what a different world it would be, and it would be a world ever-closer to the Vision of Christ's Kingdom” (from Roman Catholic Homilies)

Christ is asking us to put our lives, our energy and our resources, into the service of his plan for building up the Kingdom of God, and it’s radically transforming values. Jesus does not ask the impossible of us. Jesus calls each of us to follow him closely, as Pope Francis would say, towards Holiness. Every one—whether married, or single, religious, young or old, whatever profession we are in—God calls us individually to be a part of His plan for humanity in the context of today’s complex situations. It is in these complexities and uncertainties of life where God’s plan is unfolding, and He believes that every one of us can do our share in making His Mission real despite our failures, inadequacies. Are we willing to receive what He wants to give us and through us to the vast community?



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

11 WEEKS TO GO!

Thank you to everyone who has given donations for the new church building.
If you would like to give your pledged 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!**



Social Justice @ St Mads

This week at the launch of the Social Justice statement for 2020 'Making it Real - towards Genuine Human Encounter in our Digital World', Beth Doherty (who wrote the book, "Tweet others as you would wish to be tweeted: A Scripture-based guide to social media for the Church") spoke about the challenges for the Church today as online communities grow.

Catholic Religious Australia held a Social Justice workshop to coincide with the launch of the Statement. The Uluru statement of the Heart was a focus, which has a call for a Makarrata Commission which would make sure that the true history of colonisation is told. Makarrata is a Yolngu word describing a process of conflict resolution, peacemaking and justice. Good luck with your genuine human encounters in the digital world
~Sue Martin

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

Let us pray for the 86 children who have done their preparations and will be receiving their First Holy Communion these next 2 weekends.

The First Communion Masses will be on:
Saturday, 14th September, 5:30pm
Sunday, 15th September, 11:45am
and Sunday, 22nd September, 11:45am

BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **5th October** at **4:30-5:30pm** at St Joseph Centre.

To book, please call the parish office on 96542260. Thank you.



FROM INVISIBLE TO INVINCIBLE

Embracing God's gift of years

**A WORKSHOP WITH THE FEEL OF A MINI-RETREAT
(for the over 50s)**

Tuesday, 24th September, 10am-1pm
at the St Joseph Centre

LIMITED TO 15 PARTICIPANTS

(a light lunch will be provided)

to book, please email: careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
or ring 0438 791 813

*We offer our deepest condolences for the passing of
Sr Ellen Conway, sister of Sr Anna Conway.
Sr Ellen joined our Creator on 2nd September,
just a few weeks after the passing of
their other sister, Margaret Holden.*

*Sr Ellen's funeral will be on Thursday, 12th Sept,
10:30am at the Mercy Convent in Parramatta.*

COME AND SEE OUR PIETY STALL IN THE CHURCH FOYER!

Beautiful items are available at our piety stall for First Communion, Baptism, Confirmation, even anniversaries and birthdays!

The stall is open after the 8am and 10am Sunday Masses, and during sacrament preparation sessions!



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Sr Ellen Conway, John Fenech, Barry Bowden, Margaret Holden, Laurie Patterson, and Peter Kelly (Co Monaghan, Ireland)

For the dearly departed

Lawrence, Patricia Barbagallo, Fred Barbagallo, Grace Corpuz, Alfonso Juanengo, Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia Russo, Domenica Scarpin, Fulvio Russo, Eduardo Piccoli, Michele Vaccarella, Keith Byrne, John Hennessy, Immacolata & Oreste, Amministratore & Rosa Maria & Francesco Nati

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, Giuseppe Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

Special prayers for Joan Carroll



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1487.20

2nd Collection (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1619

Loose = \$ 1075.70

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2107

TOTAL = \$ 4801.70 (target = \$5577)

Father's Day Appeal: \$4499.75

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!

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

BISHOP'S COLLECTION FOR RETIRED AND SICK CLERGY

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the Bishop's Collection for Retired and Sick Priests last weekend. For those who were unable to contribute, some envelopes are available in the foyer. They may be sent directly to the Foundation or placed on the collection plate.

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 we can send a receipt.

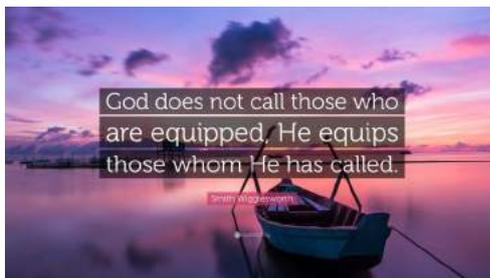
Tax deductible receipts for those who request them will be sent by February 2020.
Thank you for your generosity.

THEMES OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

A big thank you to those who attended the workshop held on 4th September, conducted by Fr Paul Roberts and Donnie Velasco from the Institute for Mission. More than fifty of our parishioners were present and were challenged to ponder each one's own calling from God. These are the themes they suggested for **all of us** to explore:

- *There is a call beyond my limits
- *There is diversity in leadership — anyone can be called
- *We are all seekers and learners
- *There is freedom in responding to the call
- *The call is for service for both home and beyond
- *The call is for LOVE, which is our source and empowerment
- *Our call involves sacrifice as we will open ourselves to transformation

We offer our prayers so that we may all open our hearts to receive God's grace, discern his calling, and respond in love to uplift our families, community, and the world.



PLENARY 2020 - National Theme for Discernment #2

As we move into this second stage of the Plenary Council journey, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Beginning in July 2019, we are invited to reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation in order to discern the answer to this question: How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is **inclusive, participatory and synodal**? The fruits of what is discerned during this time will help shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council in October 2020.



This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire for individuals and groups within and also beyond the Church to find **a better welcome** and be incorporated more into her life and mission. There was a call to **renew forms of governance and leadership in the Church**, to find ways formally and informally of being **co-responsible for ministry and mission**, seeking structures and processes of **collaboration, shared decision-making and financial co-responsibility** in order to enable this greater involvement of lay people particularly of **women, young people, people of diverse cultural backgrounds and people with disabilities**. There was an expressed need for stronger connections across the many parts of the Church, and with other Christian traditions. More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/themereports>

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

OLMC PARRAMATTA 50 YEAR REUNION: 21 SEPTEMBER

Did you commence Year 7 at OLMC in 1964, or attend any year thereafter, such that you did your HSC in 1969, or your SC in 1967? It's OK if you left before your exams, you're still welcome at our 50th Reunion! Contact Jennifer Newton: email fiftyyearsonolmc64-69@hotmail.com or Facebook page OLMC Parramatta 1964-1969 50th Reunion (September 2019).

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: 27 OCTOBER

All married couples and their families are warmly invited to the Diocese of Parramatta's Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass and Lunch on Sunday 27 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. A light lunch in the Cathedral Hall will follow. Please register your names and numbers of years married, and the numbers attending the lunch by contacting the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 02 8838 3460 or email lmf@parracatholic.org.

GERMAN CATHEDRALS AND OBERAMMERGAU PILGRIMAGE 2020

Fr Chris Dixon is leading a pilgrimage titled "German Cathedral Pilgrimage and the Passion Play at Oberammergau", for 13 days leaving 25th August 2020 and returning 6th September 2020. For more information and further details, contact Fr Chris at annangrove@hotmail.com

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.

- ◇ Rally for Life. BE THERE!
- ◇ Monica Doumit: What religious freedom?
- ◇ Where are India's six million missing girls?
- ◇ Husband ... and Priest
- ◇ Movie review: *The Peanut Butter Falcon*
- ◇ From Islam to Christ

Whenever assailed by humility, the devil loses his power. Humility is like a plank in a flood. We cannot cling too tightly to this virtue.

-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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Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria
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THIS WEEKEND		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Peter Firkins	Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Phyllis Hannah	Joe Touma
	READERS	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Tony Hooper Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Simmy Cesamolo Jan Schroder
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Colleen Dunlop Marie Coddington	Tricia Spencer Kathy White	Sandra Tabone Roslyn Earl	Selina Calleia Jason Hatcher
	JUN MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang	Thomas Foxall Thomas Barker
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Youth Group
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
FLOWERS	Nick Ceroli, arr'd by Maureen Meryment		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper	
14/15 SEPT	WELCOMERS	Judith Gauci	Maria & Steve Fry	Amira Campo	Joseph Spina
	ACOLYTE	Len Gauci	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Paul Cashman Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Berenice Hart-Gerometta Judith Gauci	Nuri Wardrop Lorraine Ewer		Marian Piper Janelle Bawden
	JUN MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Patrick McNeil	James Whittle	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark, and JMJ	Pax & Ruby
	COUNTERS	John Hourigan and Kay Brooks		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Kim Parslow
	FLOWERS	Nick Ceroli, arr'd by Mari Gregory & Maureen Meryment		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper