



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



19th April 2020

**Divine Mercy
Sunday**



**“The path of descent is the path of transformation.
Darkness, failure, relapse, death, and woundedness are our primary
teachers, rather than ideas or doctrines”**

- Richard Rohr

A true story is told about an extraordinary couple who earned their living as ambulant vendors. They would knock at people's doors and offer their products. But the amazing thing of this couple is that the husband is blind and the wife is deaf. If somebody rang, the blind husband would take the call. If they needed to send a text message to their customers the deaf wife would do it. It just worked out well between them. They seemed to be compatible, because they used each other's woundedness to make life worth living. They touched each other's vulnerability to get on with life.

Similar thing (not exactly the same) happened to Thomas in our gospel today. He refused to believe the words of his fellow apostles that Jesus has risen. He wanted proof. He was not quite content with what his companions had told him. Perhaps, he wanted to see for himself in order to believe. His doubts were sensible and understandable. “To see is to believe”, was perhaps his weakness or woundedness. Jesus touches this weakness by inviting him to touch his wounds. Jesus used his weakness as opportunity to experience more of the Master he had followed. Thomas did and he believed. What a life!

Friends, Thomas believed in Jesus because he not only saw the wounds but he really touched it. As followers of Christ and Christians, we are also called to touch the wounds of Jesus. Like Thomas, we may doubt our faith, but if we get in touch with our Lord, our faith would be purified and intensified. What does it mean to touch the wounds of Jesus today?

Our First Reading offers us a meaning of what it means to touch the wounds of Jesus! It means looking beyond our immediate surroundings, facing the woundedness of our time and society, and offering our means and resources to help those people who are in need in many ways: moral, spiritual, emotional, relational and psychological etc. Majority of the people may not be infected with corona virus but they are infected with the emotional, psychological, social, economical and relational virus. Perhaps, we may be able to clearly see the ‘woundedness’ of our loved ones as we are locked indoors as the disciples did for fear of persecution. As we identify the woundedness, as believers in Jesus, we must be able to embrace the vulnerability of the people and empower them with our love and understanding.

The second reading tells that by keeping our Christian faith alive, we remain in touch with the wounded and victorious Jesus. As we keep in touch with the wounds of Christ, we will be able to emerge as winners over the sufferings, trials and odds and ordeals of life.

Looking back over his life, Pope John Paul II said that he lost his mother when he was nine years old. He then lost his older brother, a doctor, to scarlet fever. Finally, he lost his father to a heart attack. By the time he was twenty he had already lost all the people that he loved. We could imagine the woundedness of the young Polish student. And in this woundedness, the young Polish student turned his thoughts to the idea of priesthood and to the service of God. He says that it was his father who explained to him the mystery of God and made him understand.+ (the source of ideas duly acknowledged)

Woundedness is a fundamental phenomenon of existence which we meet it in every aspect of our life. The counterpart to woundedness is healing. And like Thomas, we look around us, acknowledge our own woundedness and touch the woundedness of others. Let us ask the Risen Jesus to transform our woundedness into opportunity to live a more meaningful Christian life.

A well-known story among the Hebrew people concerns a Rabbi who came across the prophet Elijah and said to him:

“Tell me—when will the Messiah come?”

Elijah replied, “Go and ask him yourself.”

“Where is he?” said the Rabbi.

“He’s sitting at the gates of the city,” said Elijah.

“But how will I know which one he is?”

The Prophet said, “He is sitting among the poor, covered with wounds. The others unbind all their wounds at the same time and bind them up again, but he unbinds only one at a time and binds them up again, saying to himself, “Perhaps I shall be needed; if so, I must always be ready so as not to delay for a moment.”

Henri Nouwen adds, “What I find impressive in this story are these two things: first, the faithful tending of one's own woundedness and second, the willingness to move to the aid of other people and to make the fruits of our own woundedness available to others.” - Henri Nouwen: The Wounded Healer



Let us be a ‘wounded healer’ for our families, communities and beyond!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47)

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1)

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)



Second Reading (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel (John 20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Social Justice @ St Mads

Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. Mercy has also become a key theme in the teaching of Pope Francis.

We celebrate with local Darug literary team Leanne Watson and Jasmine Seymour, on the nomination of their book *Cooee Mittigar*; A story of Darug Songlines, a notable in the 2020 Children's Book Council Australia awards.

April 22nd is Earth day- we are in a time to stop and find God in all, the Jesuits have a program 'walking with God in nature' you can follow www.facebook.com/beingwithgodinnature. As Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, 'the world is charged with the grandeur of God'.

~Sue Martin



Is it not our blindness
that deceives us without
cease in all that pertains
to ourselves?
Thus let us often
say to Jesus:
Lord, that I may see!

-St Madeleine Sophie

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 65

2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$ 900

I do understand that most of us are in great financial constraints in the given situation and we hope that Covid19 will end sooner that our normal life resumes and of course now with renewed attitude and values towards life. We need to maintain the parish with the regular bills and paying off the loan with your generosity. Give a thought to it and if you are inspired to contribute, you are most welcome to do so.

If you would like to make contributions

♦ **by direct deposit**, please deposit to:

BSB: 067950

Account No: 0000388

Account Name: Kenthurst Catholic Church

Reference: your envelope number (e.g. Env 120)

OR your name + collection

(e.g. E Smith collection)

♦ **by credit card**, click on this link:

<https://www.parracatholic.org/easter-offerings/>

♦ And of course, we still welcome your donations by envelopes. Please feel free to drop your envelopes in the locked box outside the office. We will check it regularly.

Please feel free to ring the office (96542260)

on Tuesdays to Fridays (10am—4pm)

for assistance.

Thank you for your generosity!



The second Sunday of Easter (19th April) is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Hence, we will have a special live streamed Mass.

We will begin with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 pm, then pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by benediction and the Holy Mass.

Join us for this Mass.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish-172182352871811/>

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

John Mifsud, Luisito Ponciano, Jeremy Vajda, Nanette D'arcy

For the dearly departed

Paul Cascun, Paula and Ben Dieudonne, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Adelaide & Davide Baldi, Daniel Doyle, John Henry Doyle, Mary Spina, Eriberto Adan, and Teodora Canseco-Pardo

For healing of the sick

Selina Calleia, 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, Giuseppe Grasso, Sarah Bifford 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.*



I believe that you encouraged your children to make some sacrifices during the season of Lent to help the poor through Caritas Australia.

You can either contribute directly to Caritas

[Visit caritas.org.au](http://visit.caritas.org.au) for step-by-step instructions

or you can drop the Project Compassion boxes at the parish office. As it is tax deductible, make sure that you give the details for the receipt of the same.

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.

We will continue to live stream Masses this week on

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

Please join us on:

Tuesday to Friday
9:15 am and 7 pm

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm.

Sunday 10 am

CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The actual office will generally be closed, **but we will continue to be virtually open during regular office hours. (Tuesday-Friday, 10am-4pm)**

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 Facebook page:

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

and our NEWLY-REFURBISHED WEBSITE!

Please check it out and tell us what you think : <http://stmadeleine.org.au/>

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

The Parable of the Pit

A man fell into a pit and could not get himself out.

A SUBJECTIVE person saw him and said, "I feel for you down there."

An OBJECTIVE person happened along and said, "It's logical that someone would fall, down there."

A PHARISEE said "Only bad people fall into a pit".

A NEWS REPORTER asked "Can I have the exclusive story on your pit?"

A FUNDAMENTALIST said "You deserve your pit."

CONFUCIOUS said, "If you would have listened to me, you would not be in that pit."

BUDDHA said to him, "Your pit is only a state of mind."

A REALIST happened along and said, "Now THAT'S a pit!"

A COUNCIL MEMBER asked "Are you paying taxes on your Pit?"

The LAND USE INSPECTOR asked, "Did you have a permit to dig a pit?"

An OPTIMIST said, "Things could be worse."

A PESSIMIST said, "Things WILL get worse!"

A man said, "Give me your hand", took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.

- His name is Jesus.

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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