



**St Madeleine**  
Sophie Barat Parish

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



**26th April 2020**  
Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33  
1 Peter 1:17-21  
Luke 24:13-35

**"MANY OF US HAVE AT TIMES WALKED THE EMMAUS ROAD,  
WONDERING WHERE GOD IS ....  
WHEN ALL ALONG, HE WALKS BESIDES US"**

- Randy Alcorn

The gospel of this Sunday starts with the slow steps of the depressed and cast down but it ends with the excited running of the redeemed, and the joy of finding life transformed. The fear, worry, confusion grief and profound disappointment of the disciples journeying towards Emmaus evaporated in the presence of Jesus: His lively interaction with them and the exegesis of the Scriptures on the way to their place and at the breaking of bread in the end. "It is a story that is very honest about hopelessness and loss, but also about how God comes to find us in those places. It shows how God walks beside us and can transform even the deepest bereavement and loss into a journey of hope. This is a story that invites those who are deep in sorrow to walk in hope again".

This story can speak to us loud and clear as we are journeying through the pandemic. We share the feelings of the Emmaus disciples. The mixed messages, and conspiracy theories about Covid19 infuse fear, confusion, worries etc in people, young and old. Today's gospel story reaffirms that Christ makes himself known in our midst in the loving support of family and friends, or our community and especially in the selfless sacrifice of the people in the medical and other essential fields. Christ travels with us on our road to Emmaus (freedom from the infection of Covid19). Christ is present in the broken bread of compassion offered to our fellow travellers.



"This story can speak to us when we feel that we are not on a positive journey forward, when both justice and peace seem far away, and when we feel that we are simply retreating or walking slowly into a future that we dread or fear. This story speaks to those who might think they have no energy for anything as positive as a pilgrimage at all, and whom God comes to meet as they struggle to put one foot in front of another. Lesslie Newbigin, the great missionary and ecumenist, was once asked whether he was a pessimist or an optimist. He simply replied that he believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many of us have experienced or fear death, whether of people or institutions. But death is overcome, in Christ, by resurrection. The slow pace of grief can be turned to the dance of hope again. The painful walk of the bereaved can become a pilgrimage toward peace. The wounded feet of the traumatised will find justice again" (excerpted from an article on Emmaus journey and duly acknowledged)

*A young couple receives the wonderful news: they are pregnant. But their joy soon becomes a nightmare. Her severe morning sickness debilitates her; her doctor discovers the child is in distress and plans for the worst. She is confined to bed for the duration of her pregnancy. The dad-to-be is overwhelmed by it all. Unable to offer any meaningful help to his wife or his child, he buries himself in everything but accomplishes little. But along the way, their parents – gently and quietly – cover many of the day-to-day details; they check in regularly with encouragement and advice, allaying many of their fears. Co-workers at his office take as many things as they can off his desk. And, under the radar, members of their parish organise to provide supper a few nights a week. And they manage. After a long, painful, terrifying few months, they welcome their little girl, healthy and whole. And, along the way, the new parents discover again how much they love each other and the beautiful little family they have created. And they realise, too, what their love means to those around them. (A Connections Sampler )*

May we open our hearts and spirits to recognise Christ among us in all the seasons of life!

**Gods blessings,  
Fr. Vince**



### **First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33)**

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy:

my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades

nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

### **Responsorial Psalm (Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11 v.11)**

*(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. ' (R.)

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

### **Second Reading (1 Peter 1:17-21)**

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

### **Gospel (Luke 24:13-35)**

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



## Social Justice @ St Mads

As well as celebrating Anzac day on April 25<sup>th</sup>, it is also World Malaria day "Every year there are more than 200 million new cases of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease, with one child dying every 2 minutes." A vaccine is being trialled. This year with so much emphasis on a Covid 19 vaccine, it is good to reflect that we should not stop working to improve the health of all across the world.

Pax Christi <https://paxchristi.org.au/> is an organisation in Australia working with members from the Christian Peace movement it is auspiced by the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education. Visit [www.erc.org.au](http://www.erc.org.au) to receive their Just Comment newsletter.



~Sue Martin

## MAINTENANCE and CLEANING

Thanks to Rick Jones (Property Maintenance Manager) for his generosity in assembling the garden shed, with help from Pierre Coppini and Paul Vella.

Thanks to every one of the maintenance team for a fabulous job you are doing for the parish.

Thanks also to the members of the cleaning ministry, under the guidance of Sandra Tabone, who are doing a fantastic job of keeping our new church clean during this lockdown period.

If you are willing to be a part of these teams, please get in touch with Rick (0408 512 252) and Sandra (0413 272 400).

Fr. Vince

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$ 205

**2nd Collection** (for Parish) = \$ 2035

Thank you to all who have been sending in their contributions through direct deposits or by dropping off their envelopes at the office. Your contributions are a great help for the maintenance of our parish.

For those who would like to **make donations to the parish**, please select from the options below:

- ◆ **by direct deposit**, please deposit to:  
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<https://www.parracatholic.org/easter-offerings/>
- ◆ **to organise regular contributions**, please ring or email the office so we can assist you with the necessary forms
- ◆ 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).**  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

## We continue to live stream Masses during the week on

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

**Please join us on:**

Tuesdays to Fridays  
9:15 am and 7 pm

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm.

Sunday 10 am

## Carmel invites you to a **VIRTUAL**



on Saturday, 9th May, at 8:30am  
to celebrate Mother's Day FROM YOUR OWN HOME,  
together with the women of our parish!

All you need is to install the Zoom app on your  
smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop.

If you need help setting up or would like to have a  
practice session, just call Sue Martin (0432 716 577)  
who is happy to help.

It will be great to see everyone again!

### WHAT DO I DO WITH OUR PROJECT COMPASSION BOX?



You can either contribute directly  
to Caritas Australia

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

or you can drop your Project Compassion box  
at the parish office. For a tax deductible receipt,  
make sure that you give us your details.

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### For the recently deceased

John Mifsud, Luisito Ponciano

#### For the dearly departed

Danilo Jimenez Sr, Paul Cascun, Paula and Ben Dieudonne,  
Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Adelaide & Davide Baldi,  
Daniel Doyle, John Henry Doyle, Mary Spina

#### For healing of the sick

Keith Dawson, John S, Selina Calleia, Joe Fuda, India, Vince Luca,  
KylieBaker, 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, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss,  
Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone,  
John Lippman, Giuseppi Grasso, Sarah Biford 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, phone call, or by dropping a note in the  
locked box outside the parish office.*



Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee said in an interview in the magazine *The Critic*: "If younger people are having an identity problem as Catholics, I tell them to do two things: Go to Mass every Sunday and work in a soup kitchen. If one does those two things over a period of time, then something will happen to give one a truly Catholic identity. The altar and the marketplace—these two must be related to each other; when they are, one works better, and prays better."—Anonymous



**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.

**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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