



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst, NSW 2156

Ph: 96542260, Fax: 96542261, Email: stmads@yahoo.com.au

www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



29th March 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Romans 8: 8-11

John 11: 1-45

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I believe you are all well. We are all united in prayer for this infection and spreading to come to an end sooner rather than later, and for our life to return to normal.

To be locked inside home is not a good feeling. But we have no choice. The Second Vatican Council pronounced family as the domestic church and at this time we can understand that in a unique way. As you stay home, make sure that you have time for prayer, reading the Bible, play and exercise and sharing meals and stories as one family. Let us not get hooked up with the electronic gadgets all the time. God is with us where we are. Let us enhance the bonding with God and with one another during this difficult time. I believe, it is the responsibility of the adults (though we ourselves are in the state of unknown future) to instill hope in the budding generation who may be in the state of fear, frustration and confusion. I asked one of my nephews (aged 21) as to how he feels locked inside in India and about the pandemic. He was honest in stating that at times he feels petrified but he bounces back to the positive feeling that this will end. Let us hold on to Jesus and His Words that we might experience liberation from the clutches of Covid-19.

With much sadness I would like to inform you Jeremy Vajda (a parishioner aged 49) died of a heart attack last Wednesday. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his lovely wife, children, parents, siblings and relatives. May I request you to say a little prayer for him and the grieving family.

May I also earnestly request our community to adhere to the directives of the government and make everyone else safe!

Sunday Reflection

We are in the fifth Sunday of Lent, when almost all the nations and even territories within the nations are separated. The whole world is in gridlock. The Covid-19 pandemic has locked people inside houses and our ordinary lives are taking a different form and shape. We have been asked to live differently. We have been asked to self-isolate in order to curtail the spread of the virus. Surely, most of us are struggling to adapt to the new ways of living, but we have no choice than adhering to the new ways to ensure the wellbeing of everyone. As we are by ourselves under the roof, I can't but think of the homeless people here and elsewhere and especially in the third world countries. The whole world is enveloped in darkness of fear of the unknown impacting every sphere of life. It is in the context of what we are going through, we try to reflect on the Word of God.

The first reading is from the book of prophet Ezekiel. He announced a promising future for his ruined people. It was a promise that God made to Israel while she was in exile. The promise is still valid for us through Christ our Lord. It is a promise of restoration of lives weakened by sin, sickness and difficulties of life. While we are socially and physically distanced at this time, yet as one family of God, we stay together. It is the Spirit of God that can deliver us from this peril today through everyone who works tirelessly to save the lives of the people. We know by faith that divine power seems always to be activated by human cooperation and stifled by non-cooperation. As C.S. Lewis said, "God seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures."

In the second reading, Paul also reminds us that it is only the Spirit of Jesus that can restore us to life: "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you...he will give life to your mortal bodies..." In other words, without the Spirit of God, one is as good as dead. This is because Christ himself tells us that: "What gives life is the Spirit of God, the flesh profits nothing" (Jn 6, 63). The Spirit of God is the evidence of God's activity and life in us.

The gospel is about Jesus raising Lazarus from death through the power of the Holy Spirit. "Regeneration, resurrection and restoration are all possible through the power of the Holy Spirit." All we need to do is to humble ourselves and allow Him to use us.

Today's gospel affirms that Jesus is with us today, loving us and at the same time weeping over the havoc of Covid-19. Just as our joy was his joy, so also our sorrow becomes his sorrow. Our faith in Him is the essential thing for miracles to happen and moreover He has the authority over life and death.

Jesus is ever willing to help us no matter what it will cost him. Let us renew our faith in Him and continue to hear his voice calling us to come out of the graves that we have dug for ourselves. These graves might mean spiritual death, or any comfort zone we have built, or any other area of life that would make us feel like 'walking dead'. Maybe many of us are in the tomb of hopelessness in the face of today's situation, or some may be in the tomb of the bondage of sinful habits and attitudes. Nothing short of a miracle can bring us back to life in Christ. He himself said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Let us pray the Spirit of God inspires everyone to bring about all the means of restoring the lives of the people in the world.

G.K. Chesterton once said, "Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all." Let us not lose hope.... As Jesus said to Martha just to believe, he is also asking us today just to believe that with God on our side, we can get over this together.



United in prayer , Fr. Vince

First Reading (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 129. R. v.7)

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading! (R.)

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading (Romans 8:8-11)

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (shorter form—John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 137

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$ 800; Loose = \$ 50.45

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2107

TOTAL = \$ 2954.45

If you would like to make contributions for the Parish, Project Compassion, or the Diocese, please ring the office -96542260 for instructions.

Thank you for your generosity!

BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The **Baptism** preparation session scheduled for Saturday, **4th April has been cancelled.**

At this point, preparations and the administration of the sacrament of Baptism are on hold.



The Lord's mercy
is eternal;
eternal must be
our confidence.

-St Madeleine Sophie

Social Justice @ St Mads

Our cereal collections have been delivered to the Ignite Store at Emerton, which is run by Jesuit Social Services. Please keep donating as they are staying open for as long as possible and need any grocery items we can provide. Vinnies has an office within the Ignite store so is a great way those coming for food help can connect with other social services.



Last Sunday Trish Takahashi led a Laughter yoga session outdoors in Kenthurst Rotary park, thanks Carmel for organising the space, and thanks Trish for helping us reconnect with the positive powers we have to help us through the anxious times ahead. This may turn into an on-line session, if you are interested give Trish an email sorcy007@hotmail.com

March 22nd was World Water day and this weekend our Cattai Aware project is sampling for platypus eDNA. One of the 19 sites across Cattai is Bannerman Rd, the pools in Dooral Dooral creek have had recent sightings of platypus.

~Sue Martin

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 SERVICES

**All Masses
are temporarily suspended**

Baptisms: Please ring the office

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.

CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The actual office will generally be closed,

but we will continue to be virtually open during regular office hours on Tues-Fri from 9am to 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 website: <http://stmadeleine.org.au/>

and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>

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

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Jeremy Vajda, Nanette D'arcy, and Patrick Ryan

For the dearly departed

Eriberto Adan, Teodora Canseco-Pardo, Anthony Martin Pintado, Adele Conte Ceccato, Michele Vaccarella, Faraj Ayoub, Marylyn Ayoub, Suhail Khoury, Cescilila Villabert, Eugenio, Pasquale, M Teresa Loccisano, Giuseppi Mileto, Maria & Rosario Agresta, Giuseppina & Giuseppi Papalia, Domenica & Francesco Campanella, Vincenzina Americano, Salvatore Campo, Giovanni Cristaldi, Santo Cristaldi, Orazia Cristaldi, Tony Boffo, Rex & Irene D'Souza, Gerson & Maria Dias, and Louis Sammut

For healing of the sick

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, Giuseppi Grasso, Sarah Bilford 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.**



Prayer to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love, Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need, Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exists in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exist in my life.

You know very well how desperate I am, my pain and how I am bound by these knots.

Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of His children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the evil one himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot:

(insert your prayer request here)

I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once for all, You are my hope.

O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution and with Christ the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge!

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

Amen.



Linking You to Our Community of Faith

During this time of self-isolation, I encourage you to visit these websites to remind you that you are never alone. Our Lord and Saviour is always with you, and a wide world outside your home prays with you.

For live-streamed or recorded Masses:

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews/featured>
- <http://www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au/video-streaming.php>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/EWTN>
- <https://dailytvmass.com/>

For prayer guides and reflections:

- <https://www.pray.com.au/>
- <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>
- <https://mycatholic.life/daily-reflections/>

Or you may want to download an app for your phone.

Try: Bread4Today, Reimagining the Examen, Click To Pray, Sacred Space, or Universalis

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

Popular Dr Selina Leow and Dr Darren Calleia Stanhope Dental Centre



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