



**St Madeleine**  
Sophie Barat Parish

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



**8th March 2020**  
Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4  
2 Timothy 1: 8-10  
Matthew 17: 1-9

**“GOD IS WORKING THINGS OUT FOR YOU EVEN IF YOU DON’T FEEL IT;  
HAVE FAITH AND BE THANKFUL.  
WHERE FAITH AND HOPE GROWS, MIRACLES BLOSSOM”**

*There is a story about a Parisian who went for a walk to the outskirts of the city when he heard hammering and chipping coming from a large home. He was bold enough to walk across the large front yard and peer into the door. It was the studio of the famous sculpture, Auguste Rodin. One of his famous works of art is his Hand of God.*

*Anyway, the man had the nerve to walk into the studio and interrupt Rodin at his work. “Excuse me,” he said, “but how exactly do you do that?” “Do what?” Rodin asked, somewhat perturbed. “How do you create such beautiful works?” the man asked. “I’d love to be a sculptor myself.”*

*Rodin was perturbed; his work was interrupted by this uninvited stranger. He was about to explode in anger, but he calmed himself and just said to the man, “Well, let’s say that you wanted to do a sculpture of an elephant.” “Yes,” said the man, “how would I do that?”*

*“It is simple,” Rodin said, “You just get a very large block of marble, you get a set of chisels and a few hammers, and then you chip off everything on the block that doesn’t look like an elephant.” Rodin was being sarcastic. But the method of creating a masterpiece described in the story is not that far away from the work the Divine Sculptor does on us.*



Each of us is created in the image and likeness of God. But that image is hidden in the hard rock that is our resistance to God. The Lord chips away on us. He hammers out our selfishness. The negative drives within us are also chipped away, our anger, our greed, our lust, our jealousy. When we commit to the Lord, the Divine Sculptor chips it all away. That is why He came. He came to remove all that which is not the image and likeness of God and reveal each of us as the masterpiece God intends us to be.

“May he make of us an eternal offering to you,” we pray in the Third Eucharistic Prayer. Jesus transforms us into a gift to the Father. Allowing him to work on us, remove all that is not the image and likeness of God, is the work of our lives, work that intensifies during the season of Lent. In the second Lenten preface we pray, “As we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ you bring the image of your Son to perfection within us.”

There is an old expression, “God is not through with me yet.” It is true. He is still chipping away at each of us. Sometimes we are impatient with ourselves. We want to be better, but we don’t see it happening. We are fighting our anger, but still lose our temper. We are fighting against a sinful manner of living, but still feel the intensity of the temptation to fall back into the destructive patterns of life we had embraced. We have to be patient with ourselves. We need to realise that God is working on us, each of us. On the negative side, if we fall, He picks us up, and we learn the location of the stumbling stone. And we can avoid falling there again. And He



chips away a part of us that is not His Image and Likeness. Or, on the positive side, people come into our lives who need special help, significant actions of love. Maybe it’s the old man down the block whose wife died and has no one to look in on him. We make him a part of our lives, going over to his home frequently just to chat, perhaps getting his groceries, whatever, and the Lord chips away and a beautiful image of His Presence begins to emerge from the hard stone. Perhaps, a member of our family is going through a difficult time, physically, psychologically, emotionally. We bite our tongues, try to be as understanding as possible, and the Lord keeps chipping away on us.

We can all add many examples of ways both positive and negative that the Lord is transforming us. We belong to the Kingdom of God. We are made in His Image and Likeness. We are physical and spiritual. We have our citizenship in heaven. Jesus Christ is transforming us into an everlasting gift to the Father. The Divine Sculptor’s work will not be unveiled until our mission on earth is complete. What will we look like if we let Him complete His Work? Well, we also will be transfigured. (Sources duly acknowledged)

**God’s blessings, Fr. Vince**

## Social Justice @ St Mads

This Sunday is World Women's Day, there has been lots of discussion in the media around domestic violence. In our area the St Michael's Crisis centre provided much support, but was closed on 2014 the local council has created a transitional housing strategy which works with Wentworth Community Housing.

Marist 180 is a program working with homelessness in our area.



Some sad news from Timor Leste, at Colegio School, the girls boarding house supported by Monte sant Angelo College has burnt down, no one was hurt but girls have lost all their belongings. We are liaising with Monte and when a fund raising effort is announced we hope St Mad's can support.

~Sue Martin

*We offer our thanks and prayers to our volunteer catechists who give their time and effort to share our faith to the children in our surrounding state schools. We pray for the Lord to bless them, especially as they are commissioned for this school year.*

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Preparations will begin for the Sacrament of Confirmation, This weekend, we pray for the children of our parish as they commit themselves to the program.

Let us also pray for their parents, as well as the sacramental team, who will be the ones to guide them at this special time of the children's lives.

**1ST PREPARATION SESSION**  
on Sunday, 15th March, at 4:20



Rite of Christian Initiation  
for Adults

Please come and join our participants in the next RCIA talk on **Wednesday, 11th March at 7pm** in the function centre.

**TALK #9: The Creed**

*Congratulations to Lucille Harb who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend!*

*Let us keep Lucille and her family in our prayers!*

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$ 1732.80

**2nd Collection** (for Parish) **Envelopes** = \$ 1466.10

**Loose** = \$ 1754.05

**Credit cards/Direct Debit** ave weekly = \$2107

**TOTAL** = \$ 5327.15

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!**

### LENTEN CONCERT:



## 'ASHES TO EASTER'

with Peter Kearney.

Tuesday 10th March, 7pm

in the St. Madeleine's Function Centre.

Suggested donation \$10 at door.



Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic songwriter/singer and guitarist whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House' and 'The Beatitudes'. His 'Ashes to Easter' concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter.

*Comment: "A beautiful Lenten reflection ... prayerful and spiritual ... a worthwhile part of our Lenten journey".*

See you there!

**Come journey with the community this**

## Lent



**>STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

on Fridays of Lent at 7pm in the courtyard or church

**>DISCUSSION GROUPS**

\*Wednesday mornings at 10 am in the function centre.

\*Thursday of Lent at 10am at Mountain View Retirement Village, Round Corner

\*Short reflection sessions on the Fridays of Lent in the function centre after the Stations of the Cross

### BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, **4th April at 4:30-5:30pm** in the function centre.

To book, please call the parish office on 96542260.

Thank you.



### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

#### For the recently deceased

Adeline Lee-Lotze, Maria Desanti, Robyn Neasbey, Tom McCosker, and Peter McLoughlin

#### For the dearly departed

Tony Boffo, Rex & Irene D'Souza, Gerson & Maria Dias, Louis Sammut, Stanley Rodrigues, Charles James Bradley, Benito Sabellano, Rena Hooper, Patricia Bryant, Eduardo Piccoli, Maria Piccoli, Giovanni Scarpin, Domenica Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Grace Corpuz Howard Langham, Paul Spina, Rev Fr Callahan, Patrick Joseph Bradley, Alegria Ricafrente, David Piper, and Tony Votano

#### For healing of the sick

Joe Fuda, India, Vince Luca, Kylie Baker, Lara Sawaya, Candida Irugalbandra, Sheila Cañabano, 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, Sarah Biford Beattie, Giuseppi Grasso, Faye Willing, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

#### For the intentions of

Miriam Dieudonne and Geraldine Alumios Durango



# Volunteers for our growing parish

I strongly believe that everyone is delighted to be a part of our loving community. I do appreciate and thank all the volunteers who are part of various ministries in our parish. It is your involvement that makes our community grow in faith and love. God has endowed us with special talents and skills to make a difference in the lives of others.

May I request you to share your strengths with our parish community in the fields of:

- ◇ **Technology:** We'd love to invite parent-child teams to learn how to operate our sound system, screens, and laptop. We'll come together for a training session and in the future, we will occasionally ask for your help at Masses and special liturgies.
- ◇ **Musicians and singers:** If you know how to play an instrument or would like to be part of the choir, we could really use your help.
- ◇ **Welcomers/Morning Tea helpers:** We especially need help for the 10am Masses. This involves welcoming people at the doors as they arrive and/or assisting with morning tea after the Mass.
- ◇ **Cleaners:** We could use your help on a Saturday morning to keep our church and function centre clean and tidy. There are teams that come on particular Saturdays already, but more hands will make the job easier and quicker.
- ◇ **Gardening:** It would be great if you could lend a hand with the lawn mowing, weeding, and other tasks to keep our grounds looking beautiful.

Your little act of service will take our community a long way!

Give a serious thought to your involvement in the parish ministries and get in touch with the parish office (**96542260; stmads@yahoo.com.au**) for further details. All training will be provided! Thank you so much!

*Fr. Vince*

## 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

[www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au)

or can be collected from the school office.

## OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

### LOOKING FOR A GRANNY FLAT

Young married couple, both local teachers, seeking granny flat rental accommodation ASAP. Please contact Vivienne Boddy on 0421 173 136.

### 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](mailto:annangrove@hotmail.com)

### PILGRIMAGE WITH FR PAUL MARSHALL: 18 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER

Fr Paul Marshall, from Greystanes Parish, will be leading a pilgrimage stopping at Fatima, and Lourdes with visits to other sites of notable saints such as Teresa of Avila and Ignatius of Loyola in Spain, Therese of Lisieux and St Vincent de Paul in France, then to Padua, Florence, Assisi (being in Assisi for St Francis' Feast Day on 4 October), Rome and return to Sydney on 11 October. For more information call Harvest 1800 819 156 or [www.harvestjourneys.com](http://www.harvestjourneys.com) Tour Code PV5120.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY OFFICE PROGRAM

The Life Marriage & Family Office is looking for married couples to volunteer to undertake a free training course for a new program to be launched in the Diocese in late 2020. The Retrouvaille program aims to assist couples struggling in their marriage. For more information or expressions of interest, please call Karin Abrams on (02) 8838 3460 or email [lmf@parracatholic.org](mailto:lmf@parracatholic.org)

## 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

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00 am, 5.30pm

### Children's Liturgy

10am Mass during School terms

### Weekday Masses

9:15 - Tuesdays to Fridays

10-10:30 Fridays - Adoration

**Prayer Group:** Wednesdays after the

9.15 am Mass

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5.00pm

**Baptisms:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> 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 for \$2 each. Copies are in the Piety Stall.

## CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MARCH EDITION

Please take home a copy of the latest edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine. Catholic Outlook is an A4 magazine published quarterly with a focus on Catholic faith formation, spirituality and a look at what is happening across the agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta.

We cannot change our character, it is true, as easily as we change our clothes. It is the work of a lifetime. It is achieved with the grace of God and constant effort.

*-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:

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:

Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Aaron Cauchi

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<b>THIS WEEKEND</b>		5:30pm Sat	8:00am	10:00am	5:30pm
	<b>WELCOMERS</b>	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino Doreen Saggars		Nicole Foxall & Joseph Spina
	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	John Puleo	Steve Fry		HJS—Akash Arnold
	<b>READERS</b>	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Tony Hooper Bill Dowers	Ann & Mark Lee	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	*****	*****	*****	Jason Hatcher
	<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang	Thomas Foxall Saniya Arnold
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Lisa J	Joan & David	Merle & Doug	Bobby
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	Kim Parslow
<b>FLOWERS</b>	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Marian Piper	

<b>14/15 MAR</b>	<b>WELCOMERS</b>		Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Joseph Spina
	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	HJS—Josh Fogarty
	<b>READERS</b>	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	*****	*****	*****	Marian Piper
	<b>JUN MINISTERS</b>	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Patrick McNeil	James Whittle	Sara Sawaya
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Bev & Pat	Joan & David	Bobby, Mark & JMJ	Bobby
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	John & Betty Hourigan		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	Deb Rankin
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Marian Piper