



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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



10th May 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6: 1-7
1 Peter 2: 4-9
John 14: 1-12

JESUS IS THE CENTRE OF OUR LIFE

A monk has told that 'the greatest sin of the modern world is not its lewdness but its busyness. We live in the most distracted, frenetic society of all time. It is tempting in such a society to think we are good Christians and deserve applause because we look to God from time to time out of the corner of our eye'. But the fullness of truth, the fullness of life, the fullness of grace deserves our full attention. Jesus really cannot be merely a part of one's life, but must be the centre of one's life.

The centre is what holds, feeds, supports, and defines the circle. What is the centre of our life? DRUGS, MONEY, POSSESSIONS, SOCIETY, PRESTIGE, FRIENDS, THE NEWS, SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES, THE GOVERNMENT? What is it that defines the circle of our life?

The gospel presents Jesus as the guide in life, the 'way, truth and life'. The Christian centre is the person of Christ. Our work for Jesus and our love for people, no matter what our calling in life, flow from this. Mother Teresa was once asked why she did what she did, and she simply said 'for Jesus'. This centre always holds, it cannot be unhinged. It is a deeply personal relationship: we are led by Jesus 'one by one', known by name, not as one of a group. We follow him as one we know, not a stranger.

Though we fill our days with various activities, we can still find some time to be aware of the centre that holds us. Jesus' earthly days were hectic even to the point of skipping meals, but he never missed to connect himself to His Father which kept him going. An old rabbinic saying from the Jewish tradition says that a disciple should walk behind his master so closely that he becomes 'covered with the dust of his master's feet'. This image rightly underscores the closeness of the followers of Jesus. It follows that more awareness of His presence in our lives will lead us to a life of freedom in and out. It is this inner freedom that adorns our lives with real joy and happiness.



Different types of people and spirituality stress different aspects of Jesus. The Eastern approach to Jesus is very much the 'way'; while the African is the 'life'. The European stress is the 'truth'. In Europe we need to rediscover also the joy and vibrancy of the African and Latin American expressions of faith, and also the presence of God in all life's moods and journeys of the Indian and Eastern traditions. We can get so caught up in small or even big truths and doctrines that we miss other centres of faith. All faith needs the balanced approach to Jesus – way, truth and life. We pray to Jesus—our Way, to guide us in life; our Truth, to teach us His meaning of life, and our Life, to love us always. Let us recall people who have guided us well in our life and thank God for having given us such beautiful gifts (Source: Fr Donal Neary, S.J) One of the gifts of God to us is our mother. We salute them in a special way on Mother's Day for their sacrificial love in rearing us up to what we are today.



A young man once approached Socrates and asked the philosopher how he could acquire wisdom and knowledge.

"Follow me," Socrates said in response, as he led the young man down to the sea. The young man followed as Socrates began wading through the water, first at ankle, then knee, then waist, and finally to shoulder height. Then, rather abruptly, Socrates grabbed the young man and dunked him under the water. The young man struggled desperately and just before he blacked-out, Socrates pulled him up. Infuriated, the young man screamed, "What are you doing?! Trying to kill me?" Calmly, Socrates responded, "Absolutely not. If that was my intention, I would not have pulled you up."

"Then why did you just do that?" the young man gasped. "When you want wisdom and insight as badly as you desired that breath of air, then you shall have it," Socrates replied while looking the man in the eyes. Then, he turned to the shore and walked away.

God is Wisdom and Knowledge. Let us desire to have Him as the centre of our lives!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince

First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7)

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 32: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22)

(R.) *Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,

to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading (1 Peter 2: 4-9)

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel (John 14: 1-12)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

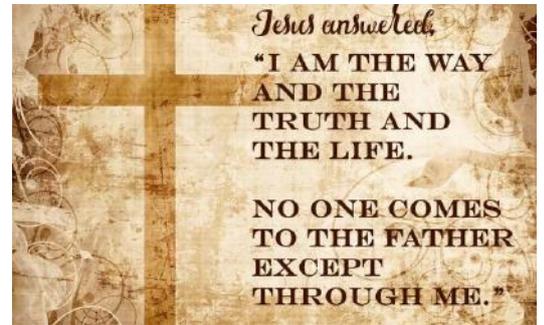
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



"A mother's love endures through all" - Washington Irving

Mothers are special gifts of God to humanity. Mother's Day is a beautiful celebration of their self-sacrificing love though a few cannot relate. My thoughts and prayers go out to them that they may appreciate their biological or stepmothers for sharing a part of them with these people. May the unconditional love of God heal them of their hurts and enable them to move effectively in their lives!

Mothers are the first teachers to teach us about the centrality and significance of God in our lives. We are grateful for their love, dedication, faithfulness, care, generosity, resilience, patience in helping us grow and mature in our personality.

Thank you to all the literal mothers who do the best they can with the love of God. Thanks to mothers who pick up the slack, offer a helping hand and create a space of vulnerability, compassion, care, understanding and all other beautiful gifts. Father Jessie and myself offer the following prayer for you on this Mother's Day.

Heavenly Father we thank You for our mothers who untiringly love and care for us with every passing day. But today, Lord, on this important "Mother's Day", we specially want to lift up all mothers throughout the land... and thank You for the very special role they play in the lives of their children.

Thank You for the selfless love they so often show and for the grace and encouragement they are able to give us, as well as their correction, wisdom and counsel. Thank You for the role model they so often provide to us and to others... and for the many sacrifices they willingly make on account of their children and families.

We pray, the influence that they exercise over their children would be Godly wisdom, seasoned with salt and bathed in prayer. We pray that You would provide the necessary health and strength they need to care for their families in their demanding task, and that You would grant each one multiplied grace, as they seek to carry out the many roles and responsibilities each within their own homes. This we ask in Jesus name. Amen! (Source: Knowing Jesus)

Happy Mother's Day! ~Fr. Vince

Join our live stream Masses during the week on
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>
 Tues to Fri- 9:15 am and 7 pm
 Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm, Sunday 10 am

Social Justice @ St Mads

World Fair Trade Day takes place on 09th May 2020. Organised by the World Fair Trade Organisation, the aim of the day is to celebrate Fair Trade and encourage the public to, where possible, choose Fair Trade goods, becoming fair and ethical consumers.

Some ideas for Laudato Si' week from the Jesuits
<http://jesuit.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Laudato-Si-week-2020.pdf>

Jessica Morthorpe at Uniting Earthweb is holding a May 15th Schools Climate Strike webinar 4-6pm
www.unitingearth.org.au/uniting-supports-the-may-15th-climate-strike/

Laudato Si' mass 5:30pm 16th May North Sydney parish
www.northsydneycatholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand



~Sue Martin



Welcome to our new Alpha course beginning Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore life and the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. We are using our new talents and doing it using Zoom. It is open to everyone. For more information or to register, contact Careyanne Moylan 0438791813

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 160
 2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$ 1580

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:

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- ◆ **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!

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Sancta Sophia, Christ, the Wisdom of God, whose light transforms all creation with love and the hope of the resurrection, and whose presence shines in the face of each one of us, known and unknown, change our minds and hearts to a God-centred mindfulness. Help us to see the unknown and unseen Christ within all things; help us hear the soft, the gentle, the merciful and feminine voice of God. Empower us to birth the love and mercy of Christ in this distressed world. Help us in our desire to live in peace with others and in sustainable harmony with Mother Earth and to live our theology.

Sancta Sophia, thank you for creating each mother with a unique combination of gifts and talents, for the sacrifice of self each one gives for her children. To our own mothers, thank you for their devotion, sharing of wisdom, sacrifices in time and desires, courage in adversity, leadership in trials, fortitude in hardship, joy in daily life, creativity, and awareness of God's beauty around us. Thank you for developing our gifts, sharing your traditions and teaching us virtues.

Sancta Sophia, from we mothers who are married, single or childless, help us to appreciate the eternal, cosmic importance that you place on motherhood. Let us understand that the most all-encompassing, world-changing events is happening anonymously in our homes. Our mothering is intergenerational, and our nurturing expands to the poor, marginalised and needy in our lives. Give us the wisdom to guide our children to see beyond the walls of our village to your mystical body, the oneness of creation, the parts of God's body who must be cherished.

Sancta Sophia, we mothers pray that your grace flows to us as a living water, empowering us to embrace the goodness of the gospel. We pray, that through us, the beat of repentance and forgiveness, love and acceptance, openness and piety, shape every home. With gratitude for the freely given gift of the moment, may we find happiness and contentment in giving all over to you, Sancta Sophia. Amen.

(written by Careyanne Moylan for the May 2020 St Mad's Women's Breakfast)

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



For the recently deceased

Alfred Roy Burton

For the dearly departed

Setna Mulvihill, Christy & Breda Sherlock, Antonio Echevarria, Eriberto Adan, Teodora Canseco-Pardo, Antonio & Domenica Scarpin, Giovanni Scarpin, Maria & Giovanni De Santi, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Sandra Catuogno, Giulia & Salvatore Russo, Fulvio & Aldo Russo, Harold Burns, Danilo Jimenez Sr, Paul Cascun, Paula and Ben Dieudonne, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Adelaide & Davide Baldi

For healing of the sick

Aura Krakowski, June Brennen, John Spencer, Keith Dawson, 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, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Giuseppe Grasso, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Faye Willing, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel

For the special intentions of

Cheryl Burton, Shirley Burton, Mr & Mrs John Addison

***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.**

Prayer should be our support; the relief of our hope.

-St Madeleine Sophie

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts,

we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches.
We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)***

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

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Finance Committee Chair: Aaron Cauchi



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