



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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



24th May 2020
Feast of the Ascension

Acts 1: 1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28: 16-20

**“He controls all things for the church,
and therefore you can face the world with peace in your heart . . .
He’s at the right hand of God as the executive director of history,
directing everything for the benefit of the church.
If you belong to him, then everything that happens
ultimately happens for you.”**

-Tim Keller

Dear Sisters and brothers,

I believe that you and your family are safe and well. With the gradual lifting up of restrictions, students heading back to school and people getting busy with their jobs, we feel that we are slowly returning to normalcy. We must be mindful of the need to care for the wellbeing of one another by adhering to ‘social distancing’ from each other. We understand that a few countries have been hit back with the second wave of Covid19, impacting them from bad to worse. The adults have to role model to their younger ones in terms of following the directives given by the government and medical professionals. Let us not disregard them as naïve or too much to put up with! It is our human and Christian responsibility to cooperate and care for one another so as to flatten the curve of Covid19. This is the key message of the feast of Ascension this year. Let us assure the wellbeing of one another through small ripples of self-care, compassion and respectful behaviour. This is the way we allow Jesus to work in and through us.

This Sunday marks the feast of the Ascension of our Lord. The Ascension is both an end and a beginning: The end of Jesus’ public ministry and mission, and the beginning for his followers to proclaim the Good News and building God’s kingdom. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus says to them, “When the Holy Spirit comes on you, then you will be my witnesses, not only in Jerusalem but throughout the whole of Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth”. It’s a transition to the next phase in the perfect plan of the Father. And understanding the way this plan unfolds should leave us in wonder and awe.

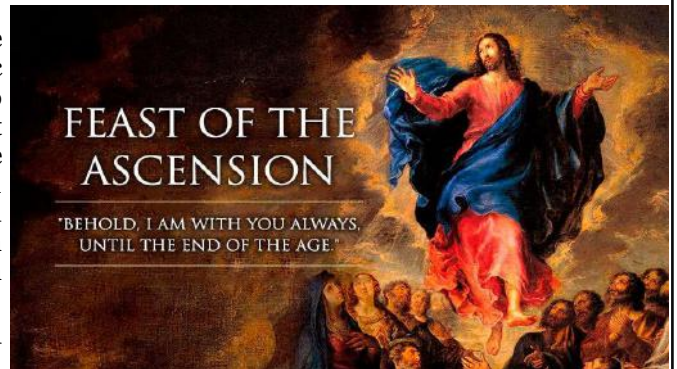
Jesus appeared various times to the disheartened, confused and frightened disciples after rising from the dead, instructing them and empowering them for a new mission after his departure from the earth. He told them His advocate would come to lead them into ‘complete truth’. For sure there was a transition in the apostles from joy, to fear, to relief and more joy, to confusion and sorrow, to curiosity and uncertainty. Perhaps that’s the way we find our lives to be. Ups and downs, twists and turns, joys and sorrows. Each phase reveals something new, something challenging, something glorious or something sorrowful. The good news is that the Father’s plan is unfolding perfectly.

The part of the perfect plan we find ourselves in with this solemnity is the part where Jesus begins to direct His mission of establishing the Kingdom of God from Heaven. His throne is, in a sense, the driver’s seat of our lives. Jesus continues to descend into our lives fulfilling His mission in and through all of us. The Ascension does not mean Jesus is gone; rather, it means Jesus is now present to each and every person who turns to Him and surrenders their life to His mission. From Heaven, Jesus is able to be present to all. He is able to live in us and invites us to live in Him. The apostles had to wait for the Holy Spirit to descend on them before they embarked on a new phase of the plan of God.

We can reflect on the abiding and intimate presence of our Lord in your life. Know that Jesus invites us to share in His mission. From His glorious throne He wants us to “preach everywhere.” He wants to invite each one of us to do our part. The part of the Father’s plan entrusted to each one of us is not entrusted to another. We all have a share in that plan. What is your part? How does Jesus direct His mission through you? Ponder this question today and know that He accompanies you as you say “Yes” to your part in the glorious unfolding of His perfect plan. (Catholic Reflections)



Leonardo da Vinci had started to work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it – choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying the colours, with his own inimitable genius. Then suddenly he stopped working on it. Summoning one of his talented students, the master invited him to complete the work. The horrified student protested that he was both unworthy and unable of completing the great painting which his master had begun. But da Vinci silenced him. “Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?” (John Rose). Jesus has left the picture of building His Kingdom with the strength of the Holy Spirit!



God’s blessings, Fr. Vince

Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, a community of faith and service, strives to be a witness for Christ’s love far and wide, reflecting the humility and wisdom of St Madeleine, the Patroness of the parish.

First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 46:2-3, 6-9, R. v.6)

(R.) *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)



Second Reading (Ephesians 1: 17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 28: 16-20)

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of God's holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

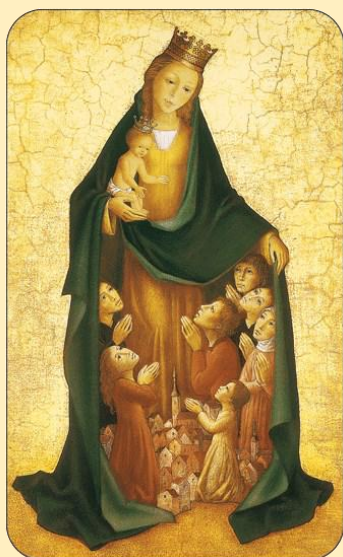
For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

(adapted from the USSCB by Aid to the Church in Need. <https://www.aidtochurch.org/coronavirus>)



Social Justice @ St Mads

National Volunteer week is finishing this weekend the theme being "Changing Communities. Changing Lives". Our parish has many members in the local brigades of the Rural Fire Service and we thank all these volunteers but especially Captain's Chris Chivers at Glenhaven and Captain Tony Williams at Annangrove both parishioners.



Next week we celebrate National Sorry Day on Tue 26 May, which is part of National Reconciliation week.

The theme for the 2020 National Reconciliation Week is 'In This Together'. Sorry Day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

Laudato Si' week prayer being said all over the world this Sunday at noon, can you see Marian College's contribution in this Parramatta Catholic Schools video?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OdPIYtIT80&feature=youtu.be

~Sue Martin

We had a terrific turnout last Wednesday evening with 18 participants joining in and 3 more promising to join next week. It was a great night spent discussing issues we would ask God about. New friendships started to form and everyone didn't want the evening to end!

For now, we have a good number that will allow everyone a chance to share at the meetings. But we might organise another batch a little later on.

If you are interested in being on the waitlist for the next Alpha Online, please contact Careyanne Moylan on 0438791813 or email careyannemoylan@hotmail.com.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 195

2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$ 1985

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:
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)
- ◆ **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!

Join our live stream Masses during the week on <https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/>

[Barat-Parish/](https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish/)

Tues to Fri at 9:15 am

Saturday Vigil at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 10 am

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for a cleaner for the presbytery:

- ◆ 10 hours a week (pref 2 days)
- ◆ Cleaning
- ◆ Washing
- ◆ Ironing

All who are interested are requested to submit their applications to the office or by email to

stmads@yahoo.com.au.

Please include names and contact numbers of 2 references.

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME

As we wait and pray for restrictions to safely ease, we continue to keep our church clean and to involve willing volunteers in the delivery of our Masses.

If you would like to put your hand up to help with welcoming at the weekday Masses, singing at the weekend Masses, reading, cleaning the church, repairs and maintenance, arranging flowers, please send an email to

stmads.liturgy@gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

are on hold for the time being.

We will keep you updated through the bulletin, our Facebook page, and the parish website.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Mr B Geddes, Familia Fajardo Milan and 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, and Harold Burns

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, Giuseppi 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.*



Go to the Heart of Jesus and draw from it,
and when you need more,
go back to the Source and draw again.

-St Madeleine Sophie

Join with others as we create community online to share and grow faith, every Saturday from 11am - 12pm with Saturday Sessions. Listen to the pre-recorded presentation about a topic of faith before Saturday 11am and then join an online group discussion via Zoom between 11am – 12pm.

Register in advance for this meeting to receive the links for the presentation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAud-uorD0iHd3uiFHqUsjrQFGs6dNYOVY2>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and the links to the presentation.

23rd May 2020: Bishop Robert Barron

Giving a reason for the hope within us.

Bishop Robert Barron is an American prelate of the Catholic Church serving as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Bishop Barron speaks about the rising tide of the unaffiliated in our Church and looks at the who, why and how of this very relevant topic. Not only true of young people in our communities, but of all generations.

Please contact Lisa Bright on lisa.bright@parracatholic.org for further details or questions.

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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