



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



26th July 2020

17th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3: 5, 7-12

Rom 8: 28-30

Mt 13: 44-52

“Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; His grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home” - John Newton

God turns everything to our good. It's not possible to go through life without some painful things happening to us. Some we have no control over (e.g. pandemic). Some of these things we bring on ourselves (e.g. alcoholism). Others are things we suffer at the hands of others (e.g. betrayal) and others are things that happen through nobody's fault (e.g. an accident).

Wherever these things come from, they may bring us to a stage where we think that there is no redemption and that nothing can be salvaged. We may feel that everything has gone down the river and is irretrievably lost. As a result, we fall prey to feelings of hopelessness and self-pity. We begin to doubt ourselves, to doubt life, and even to doubt God.

Well, for anyone who ever feels like that, St Paul has a message. He tells us (in the second reading) that God has a saving plan, a purpose, which everything serves. He can turn everything to the benefit of those who trust in him. He can bring good out of our pain, even out of our sins. This is not to say that God wills bad things to happen to us. No. When bad things do happen to us, God helps us; not only to pick up the pieces but to reap a harvest from the wreckage.

There is a story about a king who owned a very valuable diamond. One day, there was an accident and the diamond got deeply scratched. The king consulted experts to see if anything could be done to save the diamond. However, they told him that even if they were to polish it, they would never be able to repair the wound it had suffered.

So, the king locked the diamond in his vault where it lay hidden and useless for years. Then one day, a very famous diamond cutter arrived in the capital. At the king's invitation, he undertook to examine the diamond to see if anything could be done with it. After examining it carefully, he said, "Your Majesty, I will make the diamond look even more beautiful than it was before the accident." On hearing this, the other diamond cutter laughed but the king was delighted, and gave him permission to work on the diamond.

Bringing all his artistry to bear on it, he proceeded to engrave a beautiful rose on the diamond, using the deep scratch as the stem of the rose. When the king and the diamond cutters saw what he had done, they were filled with admiration. It wasn't just a clever cover-up. He took the diamond's fault and transformed it into something beautiful.

In the same way, God can help us to transform our worst fault into a virtue, our worst misfortune into our greatest blessing. Our troubles are ultimately for our good, and can be an atonement for our sins. However, in our pride or foolishness, or just in our sense of hurt, we may throwaway the thing that can bring us closer to God and help us to grow.

From painful experiences and difficult times, we learn that God is faithful to us and can bring good out of anything. If we trust him, and have patience, we will see with our own eyes the truth of what Scripture says: "God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him."

And if the difficult times should return, we will remember what we have learned, what God has already done for us, and we will not lose heart. God sees us more clearly and knows us better than anyone else. He sees our wounds and sorrows, the scars we carry in our hearts. He will be good to us in the end, both in this world and in the next. (Reflections by Fr Tom)

Cont...



Recently, a young Sri Lankan family has reunited with their kith and kin in New Jersey based on the agreement between Australia and the U.S. This family had to flee their home land 8 years back by boat, disposing all their resources to find a better livelihood in Australia. However, they ended up in the detention centre and they had to endure a lot of unforeseeable pain and difficulties. There was definitely a question in their mind— ‘Was it worth disposing everything in view of finding a green pasture in Australia. But, their faith in God never dwindled even in the face of “all things” (troubles, heavy heart, mental agony etc.) The final outcome on account of their faith was fantastic. As St Paul reminds us in the second reading, “In everything, God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.” That is, God is leading us through the storms of life towards our home, and towards his kingdom. In the case of this particular family and of course in every one of our lives, carefully, God orders all the events of our lives towards something good. This is what we call providence. Simply put, God’s powerful hand is active in all the circumstances of our lives.

Shall we take some time to recollect the experiences of God’s providence and His powerful leading in our lives and especially when we have to go through odds and ordeals in life? Let us renew ourselves in our faith that God will surely bring about something good out of this pandemic!

God’s blessings

Fr. Vince



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

As you are aware in March, we postponed the preparation for Confirmation due to Covid-19. We are now in a position to offer an altered program that will comply with Health Department regulations to those who had previously enrolled.

The modified program will run 3 x 50 minutes sessions over 3 weekends Sunday 26th July, 2nd and 9th August. There will be 2 options for each Sunday 3pm or 4pm.

The session will be held in the Church with your child and one parent attending. This allows us to have a maximum of 100 in the Church which is following current social distancing requirements.

Please contact stmads.sacraments@gmail.com



BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on

Saturday, 1st August, at 4:30pm
in the function centre.

Please ring or email the office to book in:
9654 2260 (Tue-Fri, 10am –4pm)

stmads@yahoo.com.au

Families who completed their preparations are welcome to get in touch with the office to schedule their child’s baptism.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

Donald Martin, Juliano Uy, Michael Hanna, Betty Toomey

For the dearly departed

Helena Culligan, Ivan Ceccato, Eriberto Adan, Pablito Corpuz,
Louis Sammut, Costantino Giudice, Mary Ellen Bradley, Frank Piperato,

Annina & Dominico Piperato, Filomena & Frank Coreoglioniti, Caterina Musso, Laurence Bernard Riley, Dermot John Murphy, Maria Ceroli, Milio Kazzi, Michelle Kazzi, Pietro Ceccato, Jed Manning, deceased of the Ferraro family, Joze Skok, Caterina Musso, Filomena Corcoglioniti, Norman Hajje, Chahida Hajje, Shedly Hajje, Chahide Hajje, Mary Merhi, Youssef Moit, Hanna Chiha, Raymond Chiha



For healing of the sick

Aureen Dunn, Nancy Anne Kazzi, Aura Krakowski, June Brennan, 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

**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*

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 590.85

2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$ 729.00
Loose = \$ 426.20

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$ 3155.20

Thanks to everyone for generously supporting the parish to pay off the loan and to maintain the parish.

If you donate to the parish and have recently changed your credit card, please phone the parish office on 9654 2260.

Thank you for your generosity!

Social Justice @ St Mads

Caritas and Catholic Mission our two Catholic organisations seeking justice across our globe have launched projects for the poor. Caritas Internationalis, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, president said "the consequences of the pandemic go beyond health care and ultimately threaten the livelihood of already vulnerable populations. Calling for the reduction of debt of the poorest nations." The debt of poor countries is often paid for by the sweat and toil of the poorest in these nations who live in dire poverty and are easy prey to all kinds of health problems.
www.jubileeaustralia.org/



Catholic Mission launched Socktober this past week, www.socktober.org.au/ Socktober invites children to engage with developing world issues through the language they understand best - play! Children are challenged to 'Sock it to Poverty' using the world game of soccer. The Socktober Challenge students engage in a holistic experience of mission - a learning mind, an open heart and hands for action. National Tree Day is coming August 2nd, this year with Covid Tree Day plans include supporting the theme of Regeneration: for our land, our people and our future by hugging a tree or connecting with nature and share how you plan to regenerate.
Sue Martin

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:
Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Assistant Priest:
Rev Jessie Balorio

Parish Secretaries:
Jay-Ann Gutierrez
Yvette Jacobs

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
TBA

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 4th Sunday at 11:20,
or during 10am Masses

Weddings: By appointment



Vinnies is proud to announce the launch of the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) for students in Years 4 – 6, who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/MVFPinfo>

This is the link to the Vinnies Metropolitan Schools July 2020 Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/VinniesMetroSchoolsNewsletter2020Term3>

Book Club is continuing via Zoom. I'm reading an interesting book called *God is Good for You; a defence of Christianity in troubled times* by Greg Sheridan. It is insightful, compelling, challenging and look at Christianity, once the moral and legal fabric of Western Civilisation, now becoming a sidelined minority belief. If you would like to join our Zoom group on Tuesday 28th July, 7:30pm, send me an email register — caryannemoylan@hotmail.com



OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Positions Vacant

Human Resources Adviser – Diocese of Parramatta
Head of People and Culture – CatholicCare Western Sydney
and the Blue Mountains – Applications close Tuesday 28 July

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Reopening of church buildings

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are opening their doors for private prayer, Reconciliation and for the celebration of Mass and sacraments such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact your local parish to check the arrangements put in place.

Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are still available on the Diocesan website
<https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>.

Institute for Mission Reflective Ministry Program starts 18 August

The Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry Program (Word and Mission) is going ahead, occurring every Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm, starting on 18 August. Registrations to participate in the program online are still open, so please contact Sr Grace on grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au or visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> for more information.

Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection at the entrance of the church

Join us for live-stream Masses on

Sunday at 10 am on

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses>

(In July, we will only live-stream Sunday 10am Mass)



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

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

We welcome and congratulate the newly baptised into our community!

Hayden Nathan Skinner and Annika Antony Stalin

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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belinda@bellaslawgroup.com.au
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25/26 JULY		5:30pm VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carol & Terry Scott Amber G, Brendan F	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Helen and Noel Ross
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders	Sandra Tabone Caryanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JUN MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers Addison Bayly-Pike	Patrick McNeil	Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
FLOWERS	Already arranged for this week		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino	

1/2 AUGUST	WELCOMERS	John Cice Dianne Millington	Rosa & Tony Carlino Helen & Charlie Harb	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina Belinda da Ruos
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	Sam Ursino
	READERS		Catherine Diekman Gerry McArdle	Jacqui Nisbet	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JUN MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi	Tiago Gregory Hannah Tran
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Thomas		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Peter Tallaridi Arranged by Maureen Maryment and Mari Gregory		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino