



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst, NSW 2156

Ph: 96542260, Fax: 96542261, Email: kenthurst@parracatholic.org

www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



23rd August 2020

21st Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Is 22:19-23

Rom 11: 33-36

Mt 16: 13-20

Strengths and weaknesses are the main elements of our characters. While it's dumb to think you are fault free, it's also harmful to see yourself worthless. — Asmaa Dokmak,

There's a joke that Peter had a grudge against Jesus, denying Him three times all because He healed his mother-in-law!

Despite his frailties, Jesus called Simon Peter "Rock" in this 21st Sunday's gospel. He was implying that he was solid and firm. But looking closely, the nickname given to him was unlikely for Peter was everything but rock-like. Two Sundays back, Jesus reprimanded him as 'a man of little faith' as He lifted him from sinking into the water. On another occasion, when Peter tried to stop Jesus from predicting his suffering and death as 'Satan' standing in between the Will of God. He was so weak that he did not only abandon his Master, but even denied ever knowing Him during His dark moments.

Peter's weakness is likewise highlighted in the story entitled "Quo Vadis" made into a movie after some years. When persecution of the early Christians broke out in Rome, Peter developed cold feet. He tried to flee, leaving behind those gallant Christians to be tortured and fed to the lions for public spectacles. As he snuck out through the Via Appia, he is said to have met Jesus walking in the opposite direction. Surprised, he asked the Lord, "Where are You going?" ("Quo Vadis?" in Latin). His reply, "To Rome... to be crucified again."

This hit Peter like a thunderbolt. It dawned on him, albeit embarrassingly, that if he must follow Christ, he must face the cross as his Master had done. Thus, Peter returned to Rome and, like Christ, he was crucified – but upside down because he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified like Jesus.

What's amusing is that, just across it, is a "ristorante." The apocryphal story has it that after that fateful meeting with the Lord on Via Appia, the scared Peter had to take a few shots of wine there to calm his nerves.

But why is it that Jesus chose Simon to be the solid, firm foundation of His Church and leader of His disciples? If love and loyalty were the basis for leadership, it would have gone to John, who stood by Him up to end on Calvary. The main reason could not be Peter's character of his strength, but the strength of his faith. Deep down he knew himself to be weak and imperfect, hence he was convinced that his total security could only come from a power greater than his own.

Peter's story illustrates how the Lord entrusted the Church He founded in the hands of imperfect humans. Just as there were holy and virtuous church leaders, there were also some who did not have the right virtues to lead; even today, there are some priests and bishops who, by their misconduct and indiscretion, have caused grave scandal.

But through all the good and the bad, the Church has withstood the violent storms that have threatened it because it is founded on rock, proving Christ's words in today's gospel: "And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt 16:18).

Another inspiring message is that for all the human imperfection of Peter, we poor mortals can identify with him because we, too, have our own embarrassing faults and failures.

And like Peter, we too can rise from our human weaknesses – with the help of a Higher Power.

ASK YOURSELF: After you've fallen down, do you strive to rise and reform yourself? Do you have enough faith to hold on to the Lord even after you've sinned and let Him down? If the answer is no, then let's learn from the example of St. Peter.

(Rev. BEL R. SAN LUIS, SVD)

The following is the story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study Judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese Judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. 'Sensei,' the boy finally said, 'Shouldn't I be learning more moves?'

'This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know,' the sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training. Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

Cont...



This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. 'No,' the sensei insisted, 'Let him continue.' Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake; He dropped his guard and, instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and the sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. 'Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?' 'You won for two reasons,' the sensei answered. 'First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of Judo. And second, the only known defence for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm.' The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength. (Joel Garfinkle)

“That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12: 10) Let these words of St Paul strengthen us in our weaknesses as we strive to serve God and His Church (the people of God)!

God's blessings

Fr. Vince



EMERGENCY



APPEAL

for Lebanon



The funds raised will be used to support the most immediate needs in Lebanon (such as food and shelter) but they will also respond to the physical and spiritual needs that will arise in the coming weeks, months, and years.

ACN supports more than 5000 projects annually around the world and works directly with project partners in local dioceses, parishes and communities.

GIVE NOW

To support the appeal call **1800 101 201** or arrange your offering online at www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon



Founded in 1947, ACN is the only international Catholic Charity dedicated to the support of suffering, oppressed and persecuted Christians.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to all our young people who were confirmed over the past two weeks!

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you and strengthen you as His disciples!



Planned Giving Envelopes

We thank you for your generous support over the past months despite the current situation. We wish to inform you that the Planned Giving Envelopes for FY 2020-2021 are available for collection at the parish office.

Thank you for your continued support!



BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 5 September, 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, Julianano Uy

For the dearly departed

Maria Aiossa, Joseph Njay, Sarah T Murray, Alegria Ricafrente, Marcello Pellizzon, Ubaldo Turcato & family, Isaias Navea, Emanuel Galea, Sabina Spina, Angelina Adan, Marcel Desnoux-Frane, Joseph Conti, Helena Culligan, Ivan Ceccato, Eriberto Adan, Pablito Corpuz, Louis Sammut, Costantino Giudice, Mary Ellen Bradley, Milio Kazzi, Michelle Kazzi, Pietro Ceccato

For healing of the sick

Aureen Dunn, Nancy Anne Kazzi, Aura Krakowski, June Brennen, John Spencer, Keith Dawson, 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, 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 parish office.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$794.70

2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$1771.00

Loose = \$726.60

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4497.60

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

Last week the Edmund Rice centre held a great Q & A with our Bishop Vincent Long and Anote Tong (former President of Kiribati) facilitated by Sr Jan Barnett. It explored the climate emergency in the Pacific and how Australians should respond.
<https://www.erc.org.au/>

News from Cana Farm at Orchard Hills, who provides the opportunity for people to learn from each other and to recreate themselves. Cana Enterprises employs people who have lived on the margins and been severely disadvantaged. Cana Communities began as De Porres House in 1975 and has continued under the name Cana Communities Inc since 1995. Working in inner-Sydney, the organisation has set up a number of overnight shelters and homes. Since 2011, Cana has operated a Farm at Orchard Hills in the western suburbs of Sydney. The Cana Farm is now closed to the community, but we have maintained all of our Farm employees under the Cana Enterprise. Please remember to stay in contact as we will be looking for support at Christmas time, as well as selling our famous Cana Christmas cakes and an assortment of other great Christmas gifts. Our little community has offered continuous support to approximately 50 people/families, and has provided 'one off' support to many others over the last few months. www.cana.org.au/ ~ 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

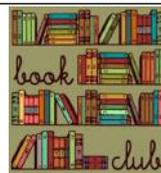
Baptisms: Every 4th Sunday at 11:20,
or during 10am Masses

Weddings: By appointment



We had a terrific time on Wednesday evenings with 18 participants joining in. They were great nights spent discussing issues of faith, relationships, our church, discernment and sharing our lives. New friendships were formed, and no one wanted the evenings to end! Many have been inspired to continue their journey in other ways. We are now starting an Online Day Alpha on Wednesdays at 1.30 pm for an hour, beginning 2 September 2020 for 11 weeks. If you are interested in joining us please contact Suzanne Kingston-Hunt 0410 936 108 or Suzannekingston@gmail.com or Careyanne Moylan on 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com

Book Club is continuing via Zoom. We are reading an interesting book called *Mere Christianity* by C.S.Lewis. It is a collection of talks given on the Christian faith, examining the truly important things in life and shows the way to hope, contentment and joy. If you would like to join our Zoom group on Tuesday 25 August at 7.30pm send me an email to register — careyannemoylan@hotmail.com



OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

NEW ONLINE PLATFORM—'THE WELL'

The Well is a 'living library' of many resources we create at the Diocese, as well from other relevant liturgical sources. Our hope is that it will be another way that people can connect with our Church, whether they attend Mass regularly, or are unable to, particularly at the current time. Our desire is for the content to both feature local communities as well as relate to the needs of our local people.

The Well Advisory Team is drawn from agencies across the Diocese and ensures all materials align with our faith and mission.

I invite you to visit *The Well* at <https://thewell.org.au/> and see it for yourself. I encourage you to also watch the short video promoting *The Well* at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJqTWKwvBAw&feature=youtu.be>

Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures. We also highly recommend wearing masks to Mass and other services. You are encouraged to check with your parish on what measures they have in place before attending. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome are dealing with a 400% increase in emergency assistance calls and are needing to feed over 1,000 people facing destitution each week. You can help by running a food and toiletry drive or donating yourself. For more information, contact Patrice Moriarty 0409 399 505 or House of Welcome office@houseofwelcome.com.au or JRS amelia.savage@jrs.org.au



A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in. "So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home." The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on Earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?" The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

"The work of the Divine Heart breathes only charity"
~ St Madeleine Sophie Barat



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish>

Join us for live-stream Masses on
Sunday at 10 am on
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses>

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:
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 Calleja
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22/23 AUGUST		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 & Noel Ross
	ACOLYTE	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Paul Cashman Pat Waters	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		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow

29/30 AUGUST	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Maureen & Rick Jones	Teresa Capaldi	Michelle & John Romeo
	ACOLYTE	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Phyllis Hannah	Sam Ursino
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Anthony Hooper Gerry McArdle	AnnMarie Duncan Marietta Nesci	Simmy Cesamolo
	JUN MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christopher Kang	Thomas & James Barker
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Hills Family Funerals Arranged by Maureen Meryment & Mari Gregory		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold