



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



13th September 2020

24th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Sir 27: 30-28: 7

Rom 14: 7-9

Mt 18: 21-35

“We always expect God and others to forgive us, but many of us don't have it in their hearts to forgive others. But don't forget that an unforgiving heart knows nothing about happiness.” – Edmond Mbiaka

How many times I have heard people saying, 'I have really tried several times to forgive and I am not able to and I have had enough of this' (I am not exempt from feeling this way). When people, through habit or mean intention, create an atmosphere of pain and hurt, our Christian life becomes almost impossible. Forgiving others seems to be a far fetching reality. We are filled with anger & rage and, as a result, we keep ourselves distant from the offenders. Maybe Peter's question to Jesus about forgiveness depicts such a deplorable situation! Jesus's answer was 'remember the source' – the source is none other than God's love and His forgiveness. I would like to give the reflection of Patricia Datchuck Sánchez on the readings of this Sunday for our prayers and actions.

“When their ordeal as hostages in Lebanon had come to an end, most of the more than a dozen men, who were held for all or part of eight years (1984-1991 C.E.), committed their experiences to writing. Their books contain accounts of desperate loneliness, brutal torture, incessant interrogations and emotions which ran the gamut from rage to fear, from resentment to hope, from hatred to forgiveness.

One of the hostages, Brian Keenan recounted, “Each of us had to reach inside himself to find that which was necessary to survive.” For Catholic priest, Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, captured in 1985, survival included forgiving those who made pain and abuse an integral part of each of his nights and days. In the published report of his experiences (Bound to Forgive, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame: 1995), Rev. Jenco traced what he called his pilgrimage to reconciliation and forgiveness.

“One day in Rome”, wrote Rev. Jenco, “within days of my release from captivity, a paparazzi shouted at me from a distance, ‘Father Jenco, what are your feelings toward the terrorists who held you?’ I responded without much thought: ‘I'm a Christian. I must forgive them’.” Then he realized the lengthy process which had enabled him to offer this almost glib, automatic response.

Forgiveness had not come easy. How does a person forgive being forcibly abducted, thrown into a car trunk and robbed of five hundred and sixty-four days of life? How does a person forgive being gagged with a dirty rag, wrapped from head to foot with packing tape? How does a person forgive being stripped of clothing and chained to a radiator? How can being kept for six months in dark isolation and deprived of food and water for days at a time be forgiven? How can a person forgive another who deliberately breaks his glasses, leaving him unable to see? How can being kicked and beaten until senseless be forgiven? How can a person forgive another who sprayed toxic chemicals in his mouth to prevent his snoring? How?

But, Rev. Jenco was able to forgive his captors and abusers because he kept, uppermost in his mind and in the depths of his heart the teachings of Jesus. He wrote, in what he called his hostage journal, all the scripture text he could remember concerning forgiveness. Among these texts were a section of today's first reading: “Forgive your neighbour's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven” (Sirach 28:2), and from today's gospel: “Each of you must forgive his brother from his heart” (Matthew 18:35). As Rev. Jenco noted, “Writing these passages was the easy part, making them incarnate was no easy task.” The fact that he had accomplished this difficult task was evident in the conversation Rev. Jenco had with one of his guards named Sayeed.

It was near the end of his captivity, although Rev. Jenco had no way of knowing that he would soon be released. Sayeed, who had brutalized him many times, had begun to call Rev. Jenco “Abouna”, an Arabic name meaning “dear father.” Sayeed asked if Abouna remembered the first six months of his captivity. Rev. Jenco responded that he did remember all the pain and suffering he and his brother hostages had endured at the hands of Sayeed and the other guards. Then Sayeed asked in a quiet voice, “Abouna, do you forgive me?”

Overwhelmed by this question, the still blindfolded Rev. Jenco recognized Sayeed's question to be a call from God. Could he let go of his anger and vindictiveness? He realized that he was being challenged to forgive unconditionally, not just one wrong but hundreds of instances of persecution and abuse. He realized that he could not forgive Sayeed on the condition that he change his behaviour or conform to other values.

When he, at last, found words to respond to Sayeed, Rev. Jenco said, “Sayeed, there were times when I hated you. I was filled with anger and revenge for what you did to me and my brothers. But Jesus said on a mountaintop that I was not to hate you. I was to love you. Sayeed, I need to ask God's forgiveness and yours.”

After forgiving Sayeed, Rev. Jenco felt free and empowered by God's word. Those same words empower us today”.

Every one of us is called for the work of reconciliation, to be willing to make the first move towards forgiveness and that too uncountable number of times and build up our families and community. Jesus expects us to offer forgiveness joyfully to others as He offers to us practically every day of our lives. As Pope Francis says, “let us not get tired of asking for forgiveness” and offering forgiveness.

Let us remember the source!

God's blessings,

Fr. Vince



An Incredible Story of Forgiveness

It's May 13, 1981 and St. Peter's Square is packed with faithful followers waiting to welcome Pope John Paul II for his weekly Papal audience. It's 5:19 pm, and as the Pope travels along in an open air car, he blesses the crowd. Out of nowhere, and armed hand springs out of the mass. Just seconds later, the Pope is struck by two gunshots. Total chaos... The injuries suffered from the second bullet were particularly grave, perforating the colon and small intestine multiple times. Miraculously, the Pope recovered from the surgery. The assassin behind the shooting was Mehmet Ali Agca, a young Turkish gunman still in his twenties. Agca was a terrorist belonging to the 'Grey Wolves', a militant fascist group involved in drug trafficking. Pope John Paul II was convinced that Our Lady of Fátima saved him from death. In fact, May 13, 1917 marks the first apparition of Our Lady of Fátima before shepherds. A few days after the shooting, on May 16, the Pope recorded the Sunday prayer from the recovery room at the Gemelli Clinic. The injured Pope's fatigued voice was broadcasted on Sunday, May 17: "I pray for my brother... whom I have sincerely forgiven. United with Christ, priest and victim, I offer my sufferings for the Church and the world" The next day, the Pontiff forgave his attacker and consecrated his sufferings to the Virgin Mary. (Article from ilglobo.com)



Forgiving an Unfaithful Spouse

One fateful day, Christy received an email from a woman she had never met. "You don't know me, but I am no longer dating your husband... I'm sorry for any pain I caused your family," the email read. "I felt paralysed," Christy told. She called her husband at work, and he eventually admitted it was true. He had carried on a four-month affair with a woman he had met at work.

"Forgiving him was the hardest thing I've ever had to do," said Christy. "But his honesty made it easier." The two later went on to renew their wedding vows, and Christy said that today, "Our marriage is stronger for it. I have no regrets."



A Child Forgives his Mother's Killer

When Didier was 11 years old, he witnessed his mother, a street vendor in Colombia, shot 38 times. This drama led him down a path of alcohol, drugs, and crime as he struggled with what he had witnessed. Didier found out who his mother's killer was and intended to retaliate, but after a friend brought him to church, he changed his mind. Instead, he forgave his mother's murderer. One day, he thought he saw the man sitting on a street corner and approached him. Didier embraced the man and told him he had forgiven him. Read the rest of Didier's story in Psychology Today. Although the world can seem dark at times, it is comforting to know that stories of powerful forgiveness are not so uncommon. Lewis B. Smedes said, "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." Source: PureFlex

What Will Be Your Legacy of Faith, Hope and Charity?

As God's stewards, we're entrusted to use the gifts we are given wisely for the greater good of our family, our faith community and God's kingdom. A gift in your Will is an enduring way to give thanks to God and share your blessings beyond your lifetime. During Include A Charity Week, we invite you - after providing for your loved ones - to consider a gift in your Will to our Parish, Parramatta Catholic Foundation or a Catholic ministry. Even the most modest gift will significantly advance our Church's works of faith, hope and charity for future generations. For information on remembering the Church in your Will: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/giftsinwills



WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY OF FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY?

For information in remembering our parish and faith community in your will please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/giftsinwills

 **DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA**
PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 3 October, 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

Elizabeth Seery, Cecily Johnston, Tom Palmer

For the dearly departed

Michelle Vaclarella, Louis Sammut, Charles James Bradley, Michael Francis Houston, James Mulvihill deceased members of Mulvihill and Culligan families, Engracia Corpuz, Christine Mendoza, Norman & Chahide Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahade Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Mary Merhi, John Baynie, Yousef Moit, Teresa & Michael Caruana, Anthony & Maryann Vella, Diann Caruana, Angelo Vella, Nenu Zammit, Fred Muscat, Scarpin Family, Russo Family, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Giovanni Desanti, Matteo Desanti & Maria Desanti, Maria Battaia & Giacomo Battaia, Francis Allan O'Neill, Claudia Duan, Gregory Duan, Gerson J Dias, Michael Hooper, Rena Hooper, Percy Hooper, Patricia Dawes, Maria Aiossa

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, Giuseppe 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) = \$430.65

2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$1959.50
Loose = \$530.20

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4489.70

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

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel 2020
13-21 September 2020

Theme for 2020: Creative Solidarity in Common Fragility <https://pien.org.au/> "Let us pray for grace to resist that negative spirit so that, with hearts open to the grace of God and the needs of all our neighbours, we may become instruments of God's reconciling work for justice and peace for all"

Act for Peace Ration Challenge 2020 Join the challenge Sunday 13 – Saturday 19 September 2020
www.actforpeace.org.au/ Across Australia, thousands will be eating the same Rations as a refugee to raise money and save lives. Let's show we really are #inthistgether.

Get ready for Migrant & Refugee Sunday 27th September where we will be doing a parish **Food Drive** for Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome.



This September we are reading, *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom (Dymocks \$19.99), which examines life through the lens of dying, to see what was important and how to live. Such memorable quotes as: "Accept the past as past without denying it or discarding it."; "learn how to give out love and how to let it come in."; "everybody knows they're going to die but nobody believes it."; "once you learn how to die, you learn how to live."; "embrace aging...if you've found meaning in your life you don't want to go back.". Next meeting is Tuesday 29 September on Zoom. Contact Careyanne Moylan: 0438 791 813 or careyanne-moylan@hotmail.com



We call parishioners together to pray the Rosary as we ask Our Lady to intercede for God's blessing on us. Prayer helps us to slow down, calm our hearts, and enable us to rest in God's presence. Through Mary, we are led to a closer relationship with her son, Jesus. The Rosary is an invitation for us to present our needs to God and to love Him more. In this time of uncertainty, dealing with COVID restrictions, ill-health, financial concerns and anxieties, we turn to Mary. We will be using Zoom. Date: 10 October 2020; Time: 10am; Contact: Kay - 0429965858; Lydia Ceccato - 0400372561; careyanne-moylan@hotmail.com



Our parish is a community gathered to worship God, bring His light to the world and care for his body. We have responded to this by creating the **St Mads Care Group** whose mission is "to bring Christ's light through giving hope and service to others." Our aim is to "provide to members of our parish practical support and care such as meals, transport, shopping and assistance". If you are interested in joining us or know of anyone who needs assistance, please contact us through Bernadette, 0418245256

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Positions Vacant:

Sacramental Coordinator – Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes –
Applications close Wednesday 16 September
More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Diocese of Parramatta celebrates the Season of Creation

The Diocese of Parramatta is celebrating the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October) by creating a video to be released on 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. We invite all parishioners to be involved. Send your photograph, video, art or poetry of your favourite nature spot in the Diocese to comms@parracatholic.org by 25 September. Details can be found at <https://www.parracatholic.org/socialjustice/>

Natural Fertility Services is still open

Following COVID-19 restrictions, Natural Fertility Services has reintroduced face-to-face instruction. We will, however, continue with Zoom meetings as this has enabled more couples access to information. We have educators available to teach any of the three methods of Natural Family Planning. If you would like more information, or to book an appointment, please contact Catherine via email catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or call 0400 427 605.

SRE learning from home

During the school shutdown, CCD designed some faith resources for families to access for their children as they learned from home. These lessons, which are fun and prepared specifically for each age group 5-13, are a good way to encourage children to converse about topics of faith at home. These lessons which affirm that they we are loved by God can be found at <https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>. For more information contact cecilia.zammit@parracatholic.org

Have a bit of a laugh!

Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France? There was nothing left but de Brie.

What's a pirate's favourite letter? You think it's R, but it be the C.

What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.

How many tickles does it take to get an octopus to laugh? Ten tickles.

Why aren't koalas actual bears? The don't meet the koalafications.

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.

"Setting out is one thing: you also must know where you are going and what you can do to get there"
~ 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 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

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

Bella's Law Group

Belinda Sawaya
0498235527
belinda@bellaslawgroup.com.au

Wills, Probates, Powers of Attorney,
conveyancing and family law needs

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12/13 SEPTEMBER		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Peter Firkins	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington		Phyllis Hannah	HJS—Akash Arnold
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Tony Hooper Belinda Da Ruos	Ann & Mark Lee	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang	Thomas Foxall Saniya Arnold
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
FLOWERS	Donated by Linda Pellizer Arranged by Maureen Meryment and Mari Gregory		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper	
19/20 SEPTEMBER	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell		Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	JNR MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Patrick McNeil		Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donated and arranged by Linda Pellizer		ALTAR LINEN	