



St Madeleine
Sophie Barat Parish

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www.stmadeleine.org.au

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



20th September 2020

25th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Is 55: 6-9

Phil 1: 20-24, 27

Mt 20: 1-6

What we have in us of the image of God is the love of truth and justice - Demosthenes

The COVID19 pandemic has brought to the surface both good and bad in humanity. The deep seated 'division' among human beings based on the phenotype, economic status, power and position, etc has shown its ugly head in these terrible and challenging times. I can't fathom the exploitation of the poor even in this terrible situation in several COVID stricken countries. This pandemic has been consistently teaching us valuable lessons to us such as 'Nothing can be so certain and absolute anymore'; "No one is indispensable and everyone can be flexible"; "Things can change suddenly and survival is about adaptability" and many more. The question is if we listen to these and change our lives. There are so many things taken as social, cultural and religious norms which are detrimental to the wholistic health of humanity. It is in this trajectory the readings of this Sunday highlight the nature of God and invite us to reflect His nature in our interdependent lives. Surely, God is just; but He is also outrageously generous and merciful at the same time. We do not get what we deserve. Rather God gives us more than we deserve.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard is rather startling. People who work an hour in the late afternoon are paid the same as those who work all day long. Obviously God doesn't think like we do. We think of justice in terms of what is fair, of what people deserve. So, we would say that the people who worked longer deserved more. But God doesn't see it that way. God thinks of justice in terms of people's dignity, their right to a decent life. The people who came late had the same right to a decent life as those who had worked all day, so they are all treated equally. Nothing is taken from anyone, but all are treated in accord with their dignity, their right to a decent life. Such is God's justice. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." God's generosity and mercy is beyond our comprehension for sure.

In a masterful book on grace, Piet Franssen suggests that we can test how well we understand God's grace by gauging our reaction to this story:

Imagine a man who during his whole life is entirely careless about God and morality. He's selfish, ignores the commandments, ignores all things religious, and is basically consumed with pursuing his own pleasure—wine, sex, and song. Then, just hours before his death, he repents of his irresponsibility, makes a sincere confession, receives the sacraments of the church, and dies inside that conversion.

What's our spontaneous reaction to that story? Isn't it wonderful that he received the grace of conversion before he died? Or, more likely: The lucky beggar! He got away with it! He got to have all that pleasure and still gets to go to heaven!

If we felt the latter emotion, even for a moment, we have never deeply understood the concept of grace. Rather, like the older brother of the prodigal son, we are still seeing life away from God's house as fuller than life inside God's house, are still doing the right things mostly out of bitter duty, and are secretly envying the amoral. But, if this is true, we must be gentle with ourselves. This is an occupational hazard for good, faithful persons. (Source: The Sunday Website at Saint Louis University)

The readings of this Sunday challenge us to be honest with ourselves and to adopt some of God's ways especially in this pandemic time. Our lives are to be founded on the law of love and not on the law of vindictive justice. We belong together under the bright umbrella of God's seeking love and we are still called to go out into his 'vineyard' (family, community and country) to tend, cultivate and harvest. He calls us to be a generous people.

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.

Refugee Food Drive

The Northern Deanery needs your help

Matt. 25:35-45

I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?"... "Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me."

Our refugees are in great need for basic non-perishable food. Most of the 97,000 people seeking asylum have no access to any form of safety net and many thousands of them have lost jobs in the past three months. COVID-19 has caused much casual work to evaporate leaving these people, who have no access to income support and many without access to Medicare, especially vulnerable.

"Displaced people offer us this opportunity to meet the Lord... You have to know in order to understand... be close in order to serve... to be reconciled, we need to listen... to grow, it is necessary to share..." (Pope) Franciscus



When: 27 September 2020

How: Drop goods at the church into the box.

Shopping List:

Cooking oil (vegetable/canola 750ml or 1 litre containers), Rice (Basmati is the most popular), Tinned chickpeas and kidney beans, Tinned diced tomatoes,

Breakfast cereal (Cornflakes are popular!) up to 500g packs, Condiments (honey, jam), Coffee (instant), Dried fruit (apricots, prunes, dates), Dried lentils (red or green)

Long life milk (1 litre containers), Noodles (instant)

Pasta (spaghetti, penne, spirals etc), Pasta sauce, Tea (black or green), Tinned or instant soup, Tinned corn

Tinned fish, Spices (chilli, curry powder, turmeric etc, small packets or bottles), Tinned fruit.

Other items: Deodorant (for men & women)

Shampoo, Nappies (for over 10kg babies only), Razors, Sanitary pads (no tampons), Shaving cream, Shower gel / body wash, Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste.

TWO BROTHERS

ONCE THERE WERE two brothers who inherited their father's land. The two brothers divided the land in half and each one farmed his own section. Over time, the older brother married and had six children, while the younger brother never married.

One night, the younger brother lay awake. "It's not fair that each of us has half the land to farm," he thought. "My brother has six children to feed and I have none. He should have more grain than I do."

So that night the younger brother went to his silo, gathered a large bundle of wheat, and climbed the hill that separated the two farms and over to his brother's farm. Leaving the wheat in his brother's silo, the younger brother returned home, feeling pleased with himself. Earlier that very same night, the older brother was also lying awake. "It's not fair that each of us has half the land to farm," he thought. "In my old age my wife and I will have our grown children to take care of us, not to mention grandchildren, while my brother will probably have none. He should at least sell more grain from the fields now so he can provide for himself with dignity in his old age." So that night, too, he secretly gathered a large bundle of wheat, climbed the hill, left it in his brother's silo, and returned home, feeling pleased with himself.

The next morning, the younger brother was surprised to see the amount of grain in his barn unchanged. "I must not have taken as much wheat as I thought," he said, bemused. "Tonight, I'll be sure to take more." That very same moment, his older brother was also standing in his barn, musing much the same thoughts. After night fell, each brother gathered a greater amount of wheat from his barn and in the dark, secretly delivered it to his brother's barn. The next morning, the brothers were again puzzled and perplexed. "How can I be mistaken?" each one scratched his head. "There's the same amount of grain here as there was before I cleared the pile for my brother. This is impossible! Tonight, I'll make no mistake - I'll take the pile down to the very floor. That way I'll be sure the grain gets delivered to my brother." The third night, more determined than ever, each brother gathered a large pile of wheat from his barn, loaded it onto a cart, and slowly pulled his haul through the fields and up the hill to his brother's barn. At the top of the hill, under the shadow of a moon, each brother noticed a figure in the distance. Who could it be?

When the two brothers recognized the form of the other brother and the load he was pulling behind, they realized what had happened. Without a word, they dropped the ropes to their carts and embraced.



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

Serena Spina, Elizabeth Seery, Cecily Johnston, Tom Palmer

For the dearly departed

Pedro, Sidro, Antonio, Lourdes, Juana, Salvador, Maria Dias, Howard Langham, Antonio Votano, 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

For healing of the sick

Michael O'Conner, 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) = \$750.30

2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$1319.00

Loose = \$928.00

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4247.00

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Social Justice @ St Mads

This Tuesday at 6:30pm is the next gathering for our Hills Reconciliation with First Peoples group, we are seeking if you know of any organisations ann@stjosephscentre.org.au We will yarn with Karen Isaacs from Oakhill College as we learn about the amazing work happening with First Nation students. For those wanting to contribute to the Diocesan Creation video, please send a photo of your favourite place in nature to <https://www.parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation/#enter> Sunday 27th September 2020 at 5pm: The Justice and Peace Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, and Nangami have organised a webinar exploring a time for grace. A time to extend to the most vulnerable and the most powerful, a moment to change our hearts, minds and practice. With Bishop Vincent, Fr Frank Brennan, Nishadj Rego and Julie Macken. www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-time-for-grace-refugee-and-migrant-sunday-webinar-tickets-119185680579



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 careyannemoylan@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; careyannemoylan@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, would be willing to cook an occasional meal for those in need or know of anyone who needs assistance, please contact us through Bernadette, 0418 248 256

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

CatholicCare is still open and operational

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains services remain open and operational during the current COVID-19 outbreak. Individual offices have been closed to clients, but the service continues to operate with care and support offered via phone, video conferencing/telehealth and online. Some programs are continuing to run groups via video conference. To make a referral, call (02) 8843 2500 (Mon-Thu 8.30am-8pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm), email – enquiries@ccss.org.au or visit ccss.org.au.

Catholic Youth Parramatta engaging young people in new ways

Catholic Youth Parramatta has established a dynamic schedule of networking opportunities, formation and resources to support ministry and engagement with young people of the Diocese in new ways. From inspiring quotes and scripture references on Mondays, to faith-filled live performances on Wednesday to launching new home-grown resources on Friday. Check out CYP's Facebook and Instagram pages and <https://www.parracatholic.org/cyp/> to download and share the resources.

Pastoral Planning Plenary Council Engagement Sessions: 12 – 24 September

You are invited to join with others online to be informed about the next steps for the Plenary Council 2020. You will experience how to use a simple guide to animate your local community to engage with the Thematic Writing Papers, and to develop Good News Stories in the spirit of Plenary.

Please register for one of the following sessions:

Saturday 19 September at 2.30pm: <https://tinyurl.com/plenary19september>
Monday 21 September at 7pm: <https://tinyurl.com/plenary21september>
Thursday 24 September at 7pm: <https://tinyurl.com/plenary24september>

Have a bit of a laugh!

100 Points! A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in." Okay, "the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart." That's wonderful," says St. Peter. "that's worth three points." Three points?" He says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service." Terrific!" say's St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point." "One point? Well I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans." Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says. "Two points!" The man cries. "At this rate the only way to get into heaven is by the grace of God!" St. Peter smiled. "There's your 100 points! Come on in!"

"Jesus wanted to fulfil the promise he had made to the apostles to stay with them... The fruit of communion and participation in the Eucharist is that the Lord becomes one with us, and we become one with him"
~ 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

<p>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</p>	<p>Playgroup Coordinator: SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones Friendship Group: Jenny Puleo Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator: Suzanne Kingston-Hunt Adult Faith Formation: Careyanne Moylan</p>	<p>Property Maintenance Manager: Rick Jones Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle Finance Committee Chair: Aaron Cauchi</p>
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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
19/20 SEPTEMBER	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Sandra De Nardi Belinda Da Ruos	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	Vicky Hooper
26/27 SEPTEMBER	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Carol & Terry Scott Amber G, Brendan F	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Belinda Da Ruos	Sandra Tabone Careyanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers Anne Kyngdon	Patrick McNeil	Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donated and arranged by Linda Pellizer		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garratt