



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

8th November 2020

32nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Wis 6: 12–16

1 Thes 4: 13–18

Mt 25: 1–13

“THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE” - Desmond Tutu

Dear Sisters and brothers,

On behalf of our community, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Fr Jessie who was with us for 10 months. We thank him for his service to our community through his pastoral and spiritual works. Now, the Bishop has appointed him as the assistant priest at St Nicolas of Myra Parish, Penrith. I wish him every good luck in his ministry over there. Let us keep him in our prayers that he may be a faithful servant of God wherever he goes.

We will have visiting priests to celebrate the Sacraments with us in the following months until we are given a resident assistant priest. May I, therefore, request you to welcome our pastors and show our appreciation for their support to our community.

Congratulations to all the children who will be ‘tasting the Lord’ in the Eucharist for the first time in their lives. Let us offer our special prayers for them and their families that they are united in the Sacrificial Love, Joy, and Peace of Jesus.

I would like to remind you again that the wearing of face masks is highly recommended during the celebration of the Mass and other sacraments for the safety and wellbeing of our community. Let us protect each other by protecting ourselves!

As we are approaching the end of the Liturgical Year, the readings of this Sunday and specifically the Gospel invite us to reflect the end of our lives. In the midst of uncertainties of the world affected by the pandemic, a follower of Christ cannot afford to be casual and unprepared for the moment.

In the Jewish culture of which the listeners and Jesus were a part, the custom was that the bride would wait with her bridesmaids, normally at the city gate, for the bridegroom to come and go to her house for the wedding feast. We must remember the conditions of travel then with no mobile phones that there would have been no way of knowing when the bridegroom would arrive. It would have been a great shame for the family of the bride not to be ready when the bridegroom arrived no matter how late it was.

Reflecting on the parable, one may think that it is unfair that the five foolish maids were excluded from the wedding simply because they forgot to bring sufficient oil for their lamps. In addition, why didn't the wise ones share some of their oil with them? Were they not guilty of rank selfishness? The parable is deeper than it seems. There is far more involved than a little lamp oil.

It should be quite clear that we are not talking about a momentary lapse of memory – forgetting to bring along some extra oil. What we are dealing with are two contrasting attitudes towards the wedding feast.

For the sensible women it was obviously the chance of a lifetime. It was something they really appreciated and for which they had prepared diligently. Here was a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to meet the bridegroom and get into the wedding feast. No way were they going to miss it.

For the foolish ones, I imagine it was a bit of fun. They tagged along merely out of duty or habit. Deep down, they really didn't care. Even so, they felt let-down when they didn't get in. But it was their whole attitude that was wrong, not just one little lapse of concentration or memory. In other words, they were not judged on one moment of their lives. The first five were ready, careful, and wise – all doers of the word. The second five were unprepared, careless, and foolish – mere hearers of the word.

Hence, we need to be the doers of the Word like the sensible women and merely the hearers of the Word like the foolish women in the parable. The oil here stands for our Faith (nourishing of our faith), our love and service for our fellow men and our life in the company of Jesus every day.

A story is told of an old and holy monk who was sweeping up the fallen leaves in the monastery grounds. A visitor saw him and asked, "What would you do, brother, if you knew that you were to die in ten minutes?" The old monk said, "I'd carry on sweeping." Because the monk has always been vigilant, he is ready to meet His Judge anytime.

In an emergency, there are some things we can borrow from others at short notice. But we can also say in the context of today's parable that the 'oil' of loving service is not transferable to others. In other words, our preparedness is something that is ultimately our responsibility.

The door was shut for the foolish women... not due to any partiality on the part of the bridegroom but because of the tardiness/delay of some in responding to the invitation.

The locked door means that access to Jesus is not automatic or to be altogether taken for granted. We need to ask for it and we need to make an effort to keep the oil of faith, hope, love and service burning bright. That is precisely the warning in today's parable - "Therefore, stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour." (Source of this reflection is duly acknowledged)

Let us give ourselves to slumber and procrastination!

God's blessings,

Fr. Vince

PARISH NEWS

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which individuals desiring to become full pledged members of the Catholic Christian Community opt for a new beginning through spiritual and personal formations. This process truly reflects the Mission and purpose of the Church - to draw people to the Father through Christ Jesus the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Who is the RCIA for?

The whole Church; Unbaptized adults seeking to become Catholic; Others experiencing Conversion; Baptized Christians; Even for Catholics to enhance the Christian Life.

The information session is on **Wednesday, 18th November 2020**

Kindly get in touch with Steve Fry on 0411 470 416 or parish office 9654 2260

Social Justice @ St Mads

A snippet from the Plenary Council Discernment Paper - How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Missionary and Evangelising? We have listened to the hopes and concerns of diverse voices, including those of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, new migrants, the alienated, those who attend Catholic schools and public schools. We hear of sadness and struggle, yet also of hope and belief in the possibilities for future ecclesial reform. Confronted by the Church's moral failures, as a Church we are called to be holier, humbler, and more faithful to a merciful God.

Richard Rohr meditations this month reflect on the poems of Thomas Keating and the practice of a centring prayer, being open to God's love and our love for God. Coming up is National Recycling week 9-15 November. 21.7Kg is the amount of e-waste each Australian disposes of each year, one of the highest in the world.



Book Club is continuing via zoom. We are reading a thought provoking book called The Universal Christ, Part 2, by Richard Rohr. In this radical message of hope, Rohr shows how "Jesus" + "Christ" reveal the divine wholeness at the heart of things--and what that means for every one of us. If you would like to join our Zoom group on Tuesday 24 November at 7.30pm send me an email to register. careyannemoylan@hotmail.com



Come join us via zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 am for an hour to pray and discuss the coming Sunday's gospel. If you would like to know more about the gospels, what it can mean to your life, pray with others, or just make new friends we would love you to join us. For more info and Zoom details, contact Careyanne at careyannemoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813



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



Congratulations to the newly baptised!

8th November 2020
William Caputo



Congratulations to the children who will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist in the next two weeks. Please continue to pray for them.



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

BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 5 December 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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$337.50
2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$588.00
Loose = \$394.45
Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000
TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$2982.45

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!

Prayer for the dearly departed

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased

Anna Valencia

For healing of the sick

Maureen Burke, Murphy Family, Kerry Rogers, 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, Tricia, 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.*



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

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

9:45—10:15 Fridays - Adoration

Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the 9.15 am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm

Baptisms: Every Sunday at 11:20
(Must make a booking)

Weddings: By appointment

Saint Martin of Tours

Feast Day:
11 November

A conscientious objector who wanted to be a monk; a monk who was maneuvered into being a bishop; a bishop who fought paganism as well as pleaded for mercy to heretics—such was Martin of Tours, one of the most popular of saints and one of the first not to be a martyr.

Born of pagan parents in what is now Hungary, and raised in Italy, this son of a veteran was forced at the age of 15 to serve in the army. Martin became a Christian catechumen and was baptized when he was 18. It was said that he lived more like a monk than a soldier.

He was ordained an exorcist and worked with great zeal against the Arians. Martin became a monk, living first at Milan and later on a small island. When Hilary was restored to his see following his exile, Martin returned to France and established what may have been the first French monastery near Poitiers. He lived there for 10 years, forming his disciples and preaching throughout the countryside.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-martin-of-tours>



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

Head of Mission Integration – Caritas Australia

For more details, please visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/about/jobs/positions-vacant>

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

IFM Bringing the Advent Gospels Alive: 10 November

The Institute for Mission invites you online to enjoy letting scripture presenter Dr Michele Connolly RSJ energise your Advent on 10 November at 7pm. Register via www.ifm.org.au/scripturenight. Please feel free to speak to any of the IFM Team on (02) 9296 6369 if you require any further information or send us an email to connect@ifm.org.au.

Pastoral Council Formation and Training

The Pastoral Planning Office is leading a series of formation and training sessions for new and continuing members of parish pastoral councils via Zoom on 11, 18 and 25 November from 7.30pm. Our parish pastoral councils offer a wonderful way to explore how communities can "go and make disciples". To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/pastoralcouncilformation> and for enquiries, please contact Lisa Bright on 0448 652 720.

Bethany Centre World Day of the Poor Food Drive: 9 – 13 November

To commemorate World Day of the Poor, you are invited to contribute to the Chancery Office's food drive. Your generous donations will support families doing it tough put food on the table. Items are to be dropped off at the Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta between 9 and 13 November. To arrange a time to drop off items, and for an items list, contact Marisa VanderHout on (02) 8838 3460 or marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org



Red Wednesday.

On 25 November the Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need is asking Catholics around the world to commemorate Red Wednesday and pray in solidarity with those who are persecuted and suffer unjustly for their faith. Find out more: www.redwednesday.org.

Masses for the Holy Souls: During the month of November Aid to the Church in Need is encouraging the faithful to arrange Masses on behalf of loved ones and for the souls that have nobody to pray for them. Find out more: www.aidtochurch.org/november

Gifts of Faith: A Gift of Faith is a Christmas present given in place of a material gift. You can arrange multiple Gifts of Faith for children, grandchildren, godchildren, siblings, cousins, co-workers, friends and parishioners.

THE 11TH ANNUAL iWitness CONFERENCE AWAKE, O SLEEPER

DECEMBER 10-13, 2020 | AGES 18-35

THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE, STANWELL TOPS

iWitness is an annual, summer conference drawing together 100s of young (18-35 year old) Aussie Catholics for a summer weekend of prayer, formation and fun.

The iWitness Conference was established in the spirit of World Youth Day Sydney 2008. It has always sought to help Australia's young people engage with and be inspired by the Catholic faith - and this year is no exception.

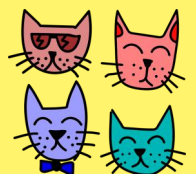
iWitness promises to be an unforgettable weekend of formation, fun and faith, just as it always is. There will be daily Mass, 24 hour (perpetual) adoration, loads of games, amazing speakers, plenty of fresh air, and more!

iWitness and the venue have a COVID-Safe plan. Full refunds will be issued if the event is cancelled.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:

[HTTPS://WWW.IWITNESSCONFERENCE.COM/](https://www.iwitnessconference.com/)

Have a bit of a laugh!



Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"



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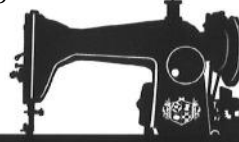
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7/8 NOV		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Darren McNeil	Phyllis Hannah	HJS—Akash Arnold
	READERS	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Tony Hooper Belinda Da Ruos	David Hall-O'Dwyer Adriana Kennedy	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christopher Kang	Saniya Arnold
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
FLOWERS	Donated by Vince Luca Arranged by Maureen, Mari & Pauline		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Sanders	
14/15 NOV	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Sandra De Nardi Belinda Da Ruos	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Janelle & Stephen Bawden
	JNR MINISTERS	Dom Bruggeling	Patrick McNeil	Elizabeth Cauchi	Josh Fogarty Sara Sawaya
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donated by Vince Luca Arranged by Rita Vumbaca		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Saunders