



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

7 February 2021
5th Sunday in Ordinary
Time, Year B

Job 7: 1–4, 6–7
1 Cor 9: 16–19, 22–23
Mk 1: 29–39

“Our lives are a mixture of different roles. Most of us are doing the best we can to find whatever the right balance is... For me, that balance is family, work, and service.” – Hillary Rodham Clinton

Finding balance in our lives has never been more critical. In today’s polarized society and amid an unprecedented pandemic, fear, confusion, and uncertainty are making rational solutions difficult to identify and placing immeasurable strains on existing relationships and community bonds. At the same time, this pandemic has taught us what matters most in life. Perhaps, it is worth it to take some time to reflect on this and strike a balance in our ‘busy’ lives. Jesus teaches the value of balancing our life through the gospel of this Sunday.

Mark records the early days of Jesus’ ministry as filled with healing. Last week, Jesus with His spiritual power, drove the unclean spirit and brought about life for a man in the synagogue and today Jesus’ healing enables a woman to resume her duties and to serve Him and his companions.

Mark presents Jesus as a man of action. Jesus goes to Simon’s house and straight to healing his mother-in-law. The people brought their sick for cure. Jesus did heal people from various infirmities. After the excitement and bustle of the evening’s events at Simon’s house, He leaves the house long before dawn to find a place of solitude where He can pray and be still with God. By citing even the small incident, Mark places importance on the fact that Jesus is not only someone who does things at once and straight away but also some one who takes time out of the busyness. He knows the needs of those who are sick and disturbed – but He also knows the absolute necessity of silence and communion with God. He was able to balance his life with his daily ministry.

The balance in Jesus’ life was to be an example to His first disciples. This may be even more important in our day, where so much emphasis is placed on what people do, what people achieve and how much people accumulate. Often, we lose sight of the importance of Being – spending time with God who created us.

Jesus offers an example of what it means to be a whole person – who gives His time and energy generously and lovingly to those around Him – but who also gives time and space generously and lovingly to God. Let the following story stimulate our mind and heart that we may be able to balance our life and make it precious in the sight of God and our brethren.

A professor of philosophy came into his class. He brought some items with him and put them on the table. When the class began, he took a large transparent empty jar and started to fill it with rather massive stones. Then the professor asked his students: “Is the jar full?” They confirmed that it was.

Now the professor picked up a box of small pebbles, poured them into the jar and shook it, so that the pebbles filled the open areas between the rocks. He asked once again: “Is the jar full?” They agreed that it was.

This time the professor poured a bucket of sand into the jar, and the sand filled up everything else.

“Now,” said the professor, “I want you to see that this jar is just like your life – the stones are the most important things, your main values – your family, health, morality”.

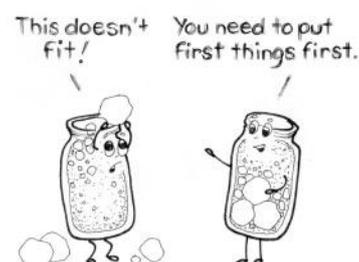
The pebbles are other things that matter – your job, house and car. The sand represents the small stuff.

So, if you put the sand into the jar first, there would be no place left for pebbles and large stones. Therefore, pay most of your attention to the things, that are the most important in life – spend enough time with your family, take care of your health and don’t forget to develop spiritually – be kind, honest, sensitive, helpful. These are the things that really matter. They should be your priorities. The rest is just sand. (Author Unknown)

Let us look at the journey of our life. We push very hard everyday to make more money, to gain power and recognition. We neglect our health, time with our family and to appreciate the surrounding beauty and the hobbies we love to do. One day when we look back, we will realize that we don’t really need that much, but then we cannot turn back time for what we have missed. Life is not about making money, acquiring power or recognition. Life is definitely not about work! Work is only necessary to keep us living so as to enjoy the beauty and pleasures of life.

Life is a balance of work and play, family and personal time, and especially time with God. You have to decide how you want to balance your Life. Define your priorities, realize what you are able to compromise but always let some of your decisions be based on your instincts. Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim of human existence. So, take it easy, do what you want to do and appreciate nature and the entire creation. Life is fragile, Life is short. Do not take life for granted. Live a balanced lifestyle and enjoy life! (Sources duly acknowledged)

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

Tap 'n' Go

As you enter the church, there are two Tap 'n' Go machines to financially contribute to the parish. You have the option of donating \$5 or \$10 each time. If you would like to tap more than once, please allow the machine 5 seconds to process.

Thank you for supporting our parish community!



Return the blessed Palms before the end of next weekend

The liturgical season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb 17 this year. May we request for you to return the blessed palms back to the church and drop them in the basket kept nearer to the Piety Stall. These palms will be burned into ashes to be sprinkled on our heads on Ash Wednesday. Thanks heaps, for obliging our request.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The following are the dates for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

Enrolment and Commitment —

Tuesday 9 March: Please note one parent is to attend for each child.

Sessions for Confirmation will take place on Sundays:

14 March, 21 March and 28 March

Sessions will be held in the church for one child and 1 parent only.

Depending on enrolments, there may be a 3pm and 4pm session. Children in Year 5 and above can be enrolled for Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on:

Friday, 30 April at 7pm and Sunday, 2 May at 12 noon. There will be a practice session on Sunday, 18 April. Enrolment forms will be available online in the next week or so and will also be available on the Enrolment and Commitment night.

I can be contacted for any questions on 0410 587 735 or stmads.sacraments@gmail.com. A big thanks also to Sally for all her work and commitment to the sacramental process.

Please note the Sacrament for First Reconciliation will commence on 18 May this year.

Kind regards,

Sandra



BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

The next baptism preparation session will be on **Saturday, 6 February 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.



Congratulations to the newly baptized!

Sunday, 7 February 2021
Lennox Hammond



Social Justice @ St Mads

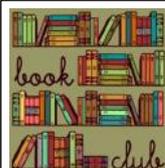
This week is the Feast Day St Josephine Bakhita, 8th February. ACU's Blacktown Campus will be named in honour of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of Sudan and of victims of slavery. Congratulations to the Senior Australian Year, Mirium Rose Ungunmerr, whose work on Dadirri is truly beautiful (www.youtube.com/watch?v=tow2tR_ezL8). The Heart of Creation retreat coming up at Pymble, February 28th, which uses Mirium's work as a point of reflection. <https://jisa.org.au/retreat/heart-of-creation/>

Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton ran an online webinar looking into the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in the time of COVID. The recording of this is available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Of2ARBQiyGkJFTftMoZrO2L0v4QneEpz/view?usp=sharing>

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Beginning 2 February, come join us via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am 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



Book Club is continuing via zoom. We are reading a best seller, The Purpose Driven Life by Dr Rick Warren. It is a book of 42 short chapters, with ideally one chapter read daily. Leading us through to find God's purpose for us, we discover a deeper meaning of love, of communion, of reconciliation, of truth.

If you would like to join our Zoom group on Tuesday 23 February at 7.30pm, send me an email to register — careyannemoylan@hotmail.com

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$762.15

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1226.00

Loose = \$594.80

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$3820.80

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!

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Suresh Hirudayanathan, Eileen Conti Zammit, Olive Burns, Tom, June Hanson and James Wilson



For the dearly departed

Mary Ellen Bradley, Patrick Joseph Bradley, Enid & Laurie Riley, Shiela Lopez, Frank Sorbello, Mary Sorbello, Giuseppina Scarpin, Michele Vaccarella, Domenico Teresa Papandrea, Grazia Sorbello, Salvatore Sorbello, Louis Sammut, Jayde Donnelly, Antonio Votano, Esther Theuma, Rita Doyle

For healing of the sick

Imelda Pellison, Justin Ryan, Anne Lingham, Jasminka Medak, David Parslow, 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

Special intentions

Irene Haughey

**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

Music Coordinators: Alexandra Mifsud, Selina Calleia & Joan Sattler

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

Welcomes Coordinator:

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Parish Secretaries:

Jay-Ann Gutierrez
Susie Lee

Sacramental Coordinator

Sandra De Nardi

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

Rite of Reconciliation – What to do

1. Priest gives a blessing or greeting.
2. Make the Sign of the Cross and say "Bless me father, for I have sinned. My last confession was..." (Give weeks, months, years).
3. Confess all your sins to the priest. (If you are unsure or uneasy, the priest will guide you.)
4. The priest assigns a penance and offers advice to help you be a better Catholic.
5. Say an Act of Contrition, expressing your sorrow for your sins.
6. The priest, acting in the person of Christ, then absolves you from your sins.



Act of Contrition

O my God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, because you are so good, and with your help I will not sin again. Amen.

Hear these words again, spoken directly to you:

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

After the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Rejoice! You have received the forgiveness of Christ! What should you do when you leave? Remember the words you recited in the Act of Contrition to do your best, with God's help, to not sin again.

Before you leave the confessional, the priest will give you your penance, which may consist of prayer, an offering, works of mercy or sacrifices. These works help to join us with Christ, who alone died for us. The goal of our life's journey is to grow closer to God. We can do this through prayer, spiritual reading, fasting and the reception of the Sacraments.

"When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive."

- Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 3

(Source: Diocese of Broken Bay)

Our Lady of Lourdes

Feast Day:
11 February



On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/our-lady-of-lourdes>



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>



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains and Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath – Applications close 12 February 2021

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. It is currently mandatory that masks be worn 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

Young Adult Faith Formation: 7 February

Young Adult faith formation sessions recommence on Sunday 7 February at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury, at 7pm. Seminarian Adam Carlow will speak and lead discussion on the Church teachings concerning Mary, Mother of the Church. We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

Life, Marriage and Family Office Marriage Preparation Courses

Dates for the Diocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office's in-person marriage preparation weekend courses in 2021 are now available, with the SmartLoving Engaged Online course another option to prepare for your marriage. For more information, or to book your course, visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460.

Office For Worship 2021 Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office for Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again in 2021 in early February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in the Liturgical Ministries of Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar at your parish. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org.

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6/7 FEB		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Rosa & Tony Carlino Helen & Charlie Harb	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina Belinda Da Ruos
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Belinda Da Ruos Mary Sammut	Gerry McArdle Nigel Saunders	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima		Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi	Tiago Gregory Hannah Tran
	MUSICIANS	Joan Sattler		Mark Huxley	
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
FLOWERS	Donated and arranged by Linda Pellizer		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper	

13/14 FEB	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Jenny & Steve Mayhew	Joseph Spina Belinda Da Ruos
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Darren McNeil	Phyllis Hannah	
	READERS	Mary Sammut Paul Cashman	Anthony Hooper Belinda Da Ruos	David Hall-O'Dwyer Adriana Kennedy	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang	
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Donated by Hills Family Funerals Arranged by Alica Garratt		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow