



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

10 January 2021 The Baptism of Our Lord

Is 55: 1–11

1 Jn 5: 1–9

Mk 1: 7–11

'Baptism is faith in action' - Watchman Nee

You first heard it as a child — the Voice. You wanted that extra candy bar or escape the boundaries of the back yard or slug your annoying little brother, but you heard that Voice saying, "Don't!" You know what Mum said. Now, you may not have paid any attention to the Voice. But you heard it. You know you did.

As you got older, the Voice spoke a little more critically. 'That was dumb...' 'You really came off like a jerk...' 'What were you thinking?' But the Voice could also be encouraging and affirming: 'Nice work...' 'You'll be glad you did that...' 'You didn't deserve that.' The Voice would prod, nudge or clobber. As you grew up, you understood that the Voice was right.

Eventually, we make friends with the Voice. We don't just listen to the Voice; we converse with the Voice. 'I'm not sure what I should do here...' 'What was that all about?...' 'How can I make things better?' And together, you and the Voice find a way to move on, to work it out, to put things back together. In time, we begin to hear the Voice speaking more comforting and consoling words: 'You are loved. You belong. You are mine.'

In the Jewish tradition, there is a name for that Voice: "bat cole", which means literally, "the daughter of a sound." That "daughter of a sound," the smallest, thinnest of voices, is the Voice of God — God speaking to us in the events of our lives, in the people we love, in the characters and conundrums that challenge us. In the story of his baptism, the *bat cole* is heard by Jesus: You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. May our hearts be attentive to that same Voice speaking to us in the course of the simple, undramatic every day of our lives — the Voice of God cajoling and nudging us to his dwelling place. (*A Connections Sampler*) Here is the story of a chef who listened to the Voice of God.

A chef had just finished service for the night, and got talking to the manager of the pub where he worked. The manager was hoping to experiment with a Ouija board after work, but the chef explained that this was not a good idea. Instead, they talked and the chef shared his testimony with him and what God had done in his life.

After cleaning up the chef went home "God was all over me about this guy" he said. The urge was so strong he decided to go back to work to speak to him. He waited around till the manager had finished his shift and then spoke to him "I really feel this is your day of salvation." The moment he said it, the sky lit up bright blue. It was a crystal-clear night. A clear and remarkable miracle.

"The Holy Spirit confirmed to me that it was God that did that," the chef said. "And I sat in my car and lead him to the Lord, said the salvation prayer, and gave him one of my Bibles." "I felt God say to me, 'Bring him home!" (Source: God is still on the move)

A little Chinese girl about eight years old was a close observer of the Missionary priest of their village church. She used to watch him at his prayers in the church, listened closely to his teaching and preaching, and watched him as he went about visiting the sick or consoling those in sorrow and pain. She stopped with him and cheered people as he greeted them in the street. He always had a kind word, a smile, a little advice for the young and sometimes a sweet for the children. One day, the girl went to the neighbouring village. They were having catechism that day and the sister was telling them of the man who was always kind, who helped the sick, cheered up those discouraged and sad, and who always went about doing well. Noticing the strange girl, the sister asked her if she knew who this person was. The girl quickly replied: "He is the Missionary Father from our Village."

Being a Christian comes with responsibility, to live our faith (a powerful message) allowing God to work in and through us. Respecting creation and caring for humanity with a spirit of love and compassion is a way of witnessing Jesus to the world. Baptism calls for concrete actions.

God's blessings,

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

Social Justice @ St Mads

What is your New Year's resolution? It could be learning more about the social and ecological justice issues in our Diocese. From the Social Justice office in Parramatta Diocese – asking for our support for the Time For a Home Campaign: <https://www.timeforahome.com.au/>

People seeking asylum and refugees need a safe, permanent home NOW so they can rebuild their lives and own their futures. Grameen Australia <https://www.grameenaustralia.org/> Grameen Australia is working with Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus to build 'a world of 3 zeros': zero poverty, zero unemployment, zero emissions.



Come and pray the rosary after Morning Mass on Thursdays!
Time: 9.45am
Contact: Kay - 0429965858



Sunday Gospel Reflections and Book Club will resume in February 2021! For more info details contact Careyanne at careyannemoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813

Proper way of Baptizing!" A Catholic priest and a Baptist pastor had an argument about the proper way to baptize. The Baptist insisted that the full immersion is required for a valid baptism. So, the priest asked him, "If I dip him up to the ankle, is he baptized?" No. "If I dip him up to the knee, or thigh, is he baptized?" No, the Baptist insisted. "If I dip him up to his chest or up to the chin, would he be baptized?" No. "That's why we Catholics pour water only on the head!"



A drunk person stumbled across a baptismal service on Sunday afternoon down by the river. He proceeded to walk down into the water and stand next to the Preacher. The minister turned and noticed the old drunk and said, "Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk looks back and says, "Yes, Preacher. I sure am." The minister then dunked the fellow under the water and pulled him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asked. "No, I didn't!" said the drunk. The preacher then dunked him under for quite a bit longer, brought him up and said, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?" "No, I did not, Reverend." The preacher in disgust held the man under for at least 30 seconds and this time brought him out of the water and said in a harsh tone, "My God, have you found Jesus yet?" The old drunk wiped his eyes and said to the preacher... "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

Baptism gives us the grace to open ourselves to God's gifts. It's not an automatic guarantee. Grace and sin - both begin with an opportunity and how we respond to it determines the end. Call or fall. (Source: Kayala)



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$568.25

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$935.00

Loose = \$795.25

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$3730.25

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!

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!

Jasper Gunasingham Grosse
Sunday, 10 January 2021



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Jill Margaret Tuttle and George Cascun

For the dearly departed

Esther Theuma, Rita Doyle, Mulvihill & Culligan Family, Michelle Vaccarella, Pablito Corpuz, Antonio Ceroli, Portelli Family, Buttigieg Family, Feliciano Sabellano, Alf Barbagallo, Philomena Beresford, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Ron Callanan, Domenica Scarpin, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Shedly & Chahide Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Mary Merhi, Yousef Moit, Pietro Ceccato, Jed Manning and Ferraro Family

For healing of the sick

Anne Lingham, Jasminka Medak, David Parslow, Maureen Burke, Murphy Family, Kerry Rogers, Michael O'Conner, Aureen Dunn, Nancy Anne Kazzi, Aura Krakowski, June Brennan, 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

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

Welcomer Coordinator:

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest:

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Parish Secretaries:

Jay-Ann Gutierrez
Susie Lee

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

Let us refresh ourselves of the understanding of the Sacraments

Baptism is not a small thing. Using such potent symbols as water, oil, and fire, Baptism is a powerful sacrament that washes away original sin and its effects. It gives us a new identity, connects us to a new community of believers, initiates us into a new way of living, and provides a clear mission in life. Baptism has meaning on many levels.

Historical

Within weeks of Jesus' Resurrection, the apostles were preaching the Gospel to people by the thousands, baptizing them in Jesus' name. Since then, Baptism has been the ordinary means of becoming a member of the Church. Think of the long line of people before you—parents, grandparents, and spiritual ancestors—who were welcomed into the Church at Baptism.

Theological

Baptism is a sacrament of initiation, cleansing, strengthening, and welcoming. Baptism welcomes us into the community of Christian believers. It offers us a new life in which we become the adopted children of God, followers of Christ, and temples in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Baptism leaves a permanent spiritual mark on our soul that makes us holy and opens us to salvation and eternal life with God.

Cultural

Families often celebrate and affirm all that happened at the altar by gathering after the ceremony to tell stories, enjoy one another's company, share a meal, and in their own ways, celebrate who they are and what they believe. Everyone present gets a chance to hold the new baby and offer his or her blessings and best wishes for a life of happiness, holiness, and faith.

(Source: Loyola Press) To be continued...



Stay in touch through our
parish Facebook page:

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Parish](https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish)

Join us for live-stream Masses on
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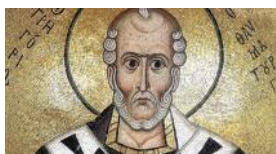
When you select The projects most in need your donation will be supporting an ACN project that needs urgent funding. In many regions of the world, the local bishops have no resources; their priests are as poor as the people they serve. For over fifty years, Aid to the Church in Need has passed on the Mass offerings of our benefactors to help poor priests survive. In return these priests offer a Mass for the intentions of the donor. This custom of Mass offerings - dating back to the second century - is a tangible sign of the spiritual and material dependence we Christians have on one another. There is no more beautiful gift than the gift of the Mass. Each year around 40,000 priests - ten percent of the world's priests - are supported by 1.5 million Mass offerings. Go to: <https://aidtochurch.org/projects/mass-offerings-for-poor-priests>



St Gregory of Nyssa

Feast Day: 10th January

The son of two
saints, Basil and
Emilia,



young Gregory was raised by his older brother, Saint Basil the Great, and his sister, Macrina, in modern-day Turkey. Gregory's success in his studies suggested great things were ahead for him. After becoming a professor of rhetoric, he was persuaded to devote his learning and efforts to the Church. By then married, Gregory went on to study for the priesthood and become ordained (this at a time when celibacy was not a matter of law for priests).

He was elected Bishop of Nyssa in 372, a period of great tension over the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. Briefly arrested after being falsely accused of embezzling Church funds, Gregory was restored to his see in 378, an act met with great joy by his people.

It was after the death of his beloved brother, Basil, that Gregory really came into his own. He wrote with great effectiveness against Arianism and other questionable doctrines, gaining a reputation as a defender of orthodoxy. He was sent on missions to counter other heresies and held a position of prominence at the Council of Constantinople. His fine reputation stayed with him for the remainder of his life, but over the centuries it gradually declined as the authorship of his writings became less and less certain. But, thanks to the work of scholars in the 20th century, his stature is once again appreciated. Indeed, Saint Gregory of Nyssa is seen not simply as a pillar of orthodoxy but as one of the great contributors to the mystical tradition in Christian spirituality and to monasticism itself.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-gregory-of-nyssa>



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Updated Mass and choir guidelines

The NSW Government issued revised COVID-19 regulations on Saturday 2 January 2021.

The revised guidelines affect Masses, choirs, wearing of masks, and the maximum number of people allowed to attend religious services.

These include a revert to the 4 square metre rule and a maximum number of 100 people to attend indoor religious services. Masks are now compulsory for all indoor religious services.

The Diocese of Parramatta has communicated these revised regulations to clergy, parishes, staff and the general public via a letter and online communication channels. These Diocesan guidelines are also available on our COVID-19 website at: <https://parracatholic.org/covid19/>

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath – Applications close 15 January 2021

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

The Epiphany Pilgrimage 2021

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. From 2 – 9 January, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and spend time in prayer and fellowship. Limited overnight registrations are available, and day walkers are welcome. For more information and to register, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>

RCIA: Exploring the Scrutinies Workshop: 10 February

The Office For Worship will be running an RCIA workshop on the Scrutinies for RCIA coordinators and teams early next year on the evening of Wednesday 10 February at the Institute For Mission, Blacktown (IFM). If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org



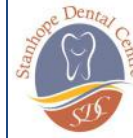
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	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY	
9/10 JAN	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran and Rocco Scardino	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Darren McNeil	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Paul Cashman Mary Sammut	Tony Hooper Belinda Da Ruos	David Hall-O'Dwyer Adriana Kennedy	
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington	Bailey & Casey Gambrill	Christopher Kang	
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle and Doug	
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Arranged by Mari, Maureen and Pauline		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino
16/17 JAN	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Sandra De Nardi	
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	
	JNR MINISTERS	Monica & Dom Bruggeling	Patrick McNeil	Elizabeth Cauchi	
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Anucia & Team	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	Arranged by Mari, Maureen and Pauline		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garratt