



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

17 January 2021
2nd Sunday in Ordinary
Time, Year B
1 Sm 3: 3–10, 19
1 Cor 6: 13–15, 17–20
Jn 1: 35–42

Everybody has a vocation to some form of life-work. However, behind that call (and deeper than any call), everybody has a vocation to be a person to be fully and deeply human in Christ Jesus.”

– Brennan Manning

Time and again someone asks me how I chose to be a priest and how I received the call from God. My only answer is that God's call came to me through my parents during my adolescence and it kept coming to me during and after the priestly formation to the priesthood. It never stops. God's call keeps coming to me through persons and events of my life even today. God's call to me is not so dramatic and ecstatic as that of Samuel's call in the first reading of this Sunday. God is working in our lives in unexpected and surprising ways. He acts in different ways and at different times in people's lives. He cannot be confined to a stereotype of calling or acting in our lives. Looking back at the call of Samuel, we can understand that the call from God came to him not on that particular night but began even before he was born. Perhaps, many of us can look back at our lives and see how the invisible hand of God has taken us through certain directions to a destination that we were unsure of. Like Samuel, when we listen to his voice, he takes us to places where we will find fulfilment in life.

It is important to observe how God persistently called Samuel, and yet Samuel did not know who was calling him. He was still unschooled in the art of listening to God's voice. He needed a spiritual director who would teach him the art of discerning God's voice. We all need to learn the art of discerning the divine voice that speaks not just in thunder and fire, but one who speaks to us through scriptures, through the ordinary events of everyday life, through the smile of a baby, in the depth of our hearts, and through our hopes, dreams and aspirations. He expects us to listen to his divine voice and respond accordingly. This is the reason why Jesus says, "My Sheep hear my voice and follow me" (John 10:27). We read about how Andrew and Simon responded to the inner call and followed Jesus. To follow Jesus implies adopting his lifestyle and, in doing so, faith and commitment are essential requirements.

A call is a vocation and many of us misunderstand the meaning of vocation. According to Mother Theresa, "Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus." This is to say that love is the ultimate vocation that we all share. There are times when we equate our vocation to love with gratification of the body and so the Apostle Paul reminds us that the vocation to love is not about bodily gratification, but about glorification of our body by way of keeping it sacred. To live a vocation of chastity is not just easy, especially in our modern world where we are bombarded daily by images that provoke our lower instincts. To live a life of chastity is possible only with the grace and help of God. Pope John Paul II says "Chastity is a difficult, long term matter; one must wait patiently for it to bear fruit, for the happiness of loving kindness which it must bring. But at the same time, chastity is the sure way to happiness."

The scriptures constantly challenge us to live a life that is worthy of our vocation to love. As we read about the positive response of Samuel, Simon and Andrew to the divine call, we must not forget that we are all called to be disciples. God is calling you to do something good; he is calling you to be something wonderful. We should constantly ask ourselves daily and in every situation of life. What is he calling me to do? What is he calling me to say? What is he calling me to be? Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening! (*Edited Fr. Gerald Musa*)

A young man was eager to grow in His Christian life. He got a piece of paper and made a list of all the things he would do for God. He wrote down the things he would give up, the places he would go to minister and the areas of ministry he would enter. He was excited. He took that list to the church and put it on the altar.

He thought he would feel joy, but instead he felt empty. So, he went home and started adding to his list. He wrote down more things he would do and wouldn't do. He took the longer list and put it on the altar, but still he felt nothing.

He went to a wise, old pastor, told him the situation and asked for help. The pastor said, "Take a blank sheet of paper. Sign your name at the bottom. Put that on the altar." The young man did, and then peace came to his heart. (*Source: The Pulling Down of Strongholds, R.B. Ouellette*)

God's blessings,

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

Social Justice @ St Mads

From Common Grace a #ChangeTheHeart prayer event on Monday, 25 January 2021 streamed on www.commongrace.org.au

Project Compassion Launch will be on Saturday, 20th February.

This may interest you to participate in <https://creationcarecollective.com/growingtogether/>

Mercy Works supports long term development projects, working with some of the most challenged people in Australia and the South-East Asia Pacific region, improving health, enhancing social wellbeing and expanding educational opportunities.



Come and pray the rosary after Morning Mass on Thursdays!
Time: 9.45am
Contact: Kay - 0429965858
Lydia Ceccato - 0400372561



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

The Bishop's Gift

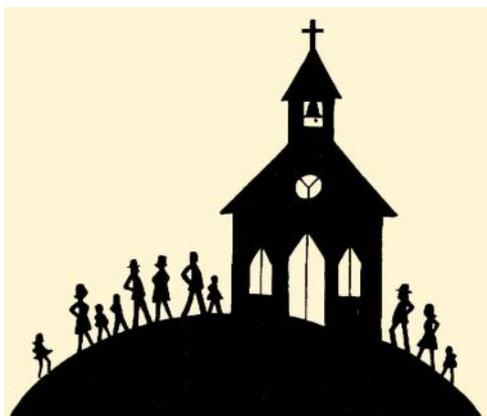
by: Author Unknown, Source Unknown

Once, a church had fallen upon hard times. Only five members were left: the pastor and four others, all over 60 years old.

In the mountains, near the church, there lived a retired Bishop. It occurred to the pastor to ask the Bishop if he could offer any advice that might save the church. The pastor and the Bishop spoke at length, but when asked for advice, the Bishop simply responded by saying, "I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you."

The pastor, returning to the church, told the church members what the Bishop had said. In the months that followed, the old church members pondered the words of the Bishop. "The Messiah is one of us?" they each asked themselves. As they thought about this possibility, they all began to treat each other with extraordinary respect on the off chance that that one among them might be the Messiah. And on the off, off chance that each member himself might be the Messiah, they also began to treat themselves with extraordinary care.

As time went by, people visiting the church noticed the aura of respect and gentle kindness that surrounded the five old members of the small church. Hardly knowing why, more people began to come back to the church. They began to bring their friends, and their friends brought more friends. Within a few years, the small church had once again become a thriving church, thanks to the Bishop's gift.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$575.00

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1047.50

Loose = \$702.50

Credit cards/Direct Debit ave weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$3750.00

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!

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.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

June Hanson, James Wilson and George Cascun

For the dearly departed

Antonio Votano, Esther Theuma, Rita Doyle, Mulvihill & Culligan Family, Michelle Vaccarella, Pablito Corpuz, Antonio Ceroli, Portelli Family, Buttigieg Family, Felician Sabellano, Alf Barbaggio, 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 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

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

Physical

Like any sacrament, Baptism makes visible an invisible reality. In other words, we use physical signs and rituals to express our experience of God and his grace in our lives. The symbols you see at a Baptism ceremony include the following:



The Sign of the Cross is traced on the forehead of the one being baptized. This ritual action expresses that the mystery of the cross is at the heart of our faith.

The immersion in water (or pouring on of water) of the one being baptized reminds us that we die with Jesus to conquer sin and rise with him so we might enter into new life. In this action we are reminded of how Moses led the Hebrews on their escape from Egypt and how he parted the waters of the Red Sea as the gateway to liberation, away from slavery and into the Promised Land. We also recall Jesus' death and Resurrection, which free us from sin and bring us into a new way of living. Many new or remodelled churches have the baptismal font near the main entrance to symbolize that we all enter the church through the waters of Baptism.

The words of Baptism, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," are spoken while the water is poured or the one to be baptized is immersed. These words reveal that God in the Trinity is both the source of life and our life's goal.

The newly baptized is anointed with sacred oil to signify that the Holy Spirit dwells within the heart of this new Christian. It's also a sign of being anointed to a mission to live and love as Jesus lived.

A white garment reflects that in Baptism we "put on Christ," taking our new and truest identity as a son or daughter of God.

A baptismal candle, lit from the Easter candle, represents the one true light of Christ, a light to guide the new believer throughout his or her life.

(Source: Loyola Press)



Stay in touch through our
parish Facebook page:

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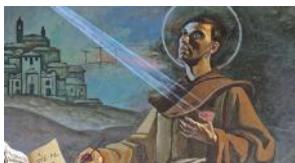
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ON AIR

[https://www.facebook.com/
St-Madeleines-Masses](https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses)

St Charles of Sezze

Feast Day:
18th
January



Charles thought that God was calling him to be a missionary in India, but he never got there. God had something better for this 17th-century successor to Brother Juniper.

Born in Sezze, southeast of Rome, Charles was inspired by the lives of Salvator Horta and Paschal Baylon to become a Franciscan; he did that in 1635. Charles tells us in his autobiography, "Our Lord put in my heart a determination to become a lay brother with a great desire to be poor and to beg alms for his love."

Charles served as cook, porter, sacristan, gardener and beggar at various friaries in Italy. In some ways, he was "an accident waiting to happen." He once started a huge fire in the kitchen when the oil in which he was frying onions burst into flames.

One story shows how thoroughly Charles adopted the spirit of Saint Francis. The superior ordered Charles—then porter—to give food only to traveling friars who came to the door. Charles obeyed this direction; simultaneously the alms to the friars decreased. Charles convinced the superior the two facts were related. When the friars resumed giving goods to all who asked at the door, alms to the friars increased also.

Cont...

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-charles-of-sezze>

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: As we begin a new year please remember the suffering Church. Your donation helps keep the faith alive during these difficult times. Visit www.aidtochurch.org



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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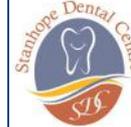
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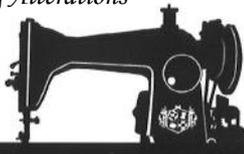
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| | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | 5:30PM SUNDAY | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 16/17 JAN | WELCOMERS | Belinda Da Ruos | Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell | 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 | Monica & Dom Bruggeling | Patrick McNeil | Elizabeth Cauchi | Sara Sawaya |
| | 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 |
| 23/24 JAN | WELCOMERS | Dianne Millington | Carol & Terry Scott Amber G, Brendan F | Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone | Lidia Ceccato 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 Addison Bayly-Pike | Patrick McNeil | Kerstin Grima Jack Treak | Thomas & James Barker |
| | MUSICIANS | Joan Sattler | | Merle and Doug | |
| | COUNTERS | Paul Vella & Belle Craig | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | To be announced |
| | FLOWERS | Arranged by Mari, Maureen and Pauline | | ALTAR LINEN | Alice Garratt |