



## St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

**28 February 2021**  
**2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B**

Gen 22: 1—2, 9—13, 15—18

Rom 8: 31—34

Mk 9: 2—10

### Highs and Lows

We all have them. How do we handle them? Some are inclined to get carried away with our "highs" and some throw in the towel that everything and everyone, including God, is against them. Today's readings touch on such situations and provide examples for dealing with them.

Abraham and Sarah had a son in their old age and they were given the promise that he would be the father of a great nation. Now, they were shattered by God's request to sacrifice the lad they had so longed for. In its ancient origin, the story of the father sacrificing the son was probably aimed at the practice of human sacrifice. In the Old Testament tradition, the story has been adjusted to present an example of Faith; still later, Jewish tradition used it to illustrate not only Abraham's faith, but also the faith of Isaac.

In the New Testament, we see this image being extended to Christian teaching - God willingly sacrificing Christ, and Christ willing to be sacrificed. From this application we learn the value that we, as individuals, have in the sight of God. We learn, too, that the trials we experience should be regarded as stepping stones to character building. "With God on our side, who can be against us?"

Both Jesus and the Apostles with Him have a powerful experience on Mt. Tabor. There is the "high" contained in the commendation 'this is my beloved Son; hear him'; but, Jesus now understands that he must go up to Jerusalem to die there. This is the downside of the powerful transfiguration experience.

Last week, we reflected on the wilderness... a place of loneliness and at the same time a place of encountering God and being served by the angels.

This week, we climb the mountains - Mountains are often referred to in the Scriptures as scenes for close encounters between God and His people. Noah, Mt. Ararat; Abraham, Mt. Moriah; Moses, Mount Sinai and today we read of the Transfiguration experience on Mt. Tabor. This experience was a great "high" for Christ and the Apostles with Him. The commendation of the Father, the presence of the Prophets, Moses and Elijah. But, balancing this "high" came the downside of the encounter. From here he must go up to Jerusalem to complete the mission of salvation.

Most of us have moments when we see exactly where our lives are going and what we need to do in order to be true to ourselves. And part of that recognition is knowing that the "high" points can only be reached by passing through the valleys. Very few, if any, experience completely plain sailing in life. There are usually troughs to be negotiated. In other words, life is a series of joys alternating with moments of pain and anguish. We have our moments of satisfaction when we say "God is in his heavens; and all is well with the world". But those interludes pass, and the monotony, the heartaches, the routines and the anxieties of life return. The highs and lows of life can feel like a roller coaster.

You've probably experienced a day that starts out smooth, but quickly hurtles to the bottom when a family member is cranky or stubborn or decides they don't care about your feelings at the moment. I know it happens in our house. One bad mood can put a damper on the whole group. Those are the days when life reminds me that the good times don't last but neither do the bad.

Whether there is more joy than heartache in relationships depend on how people learn to control their selfish, defensive, vindictive and impatient tendencies. The truth is, we are all imperfect human beings and there will be no perfect life. Everyone could make mistakes that will embarrass the hell out of us. That's life. It is no different in our relationship with God. Here, too, "highs" and "lows" are present; and for the same reason, namely, our selfishness. It is not easy to say "not my will, but yours be done". No one goes through life without these "highs" and "lows". The big question is - do we have sufficient Faith in Christ's leadership to know that every "low" can be a stepping stone to a greater "high". The Tabor experience brought home to Christ and the Apostles the recognition that the successes so far achieved were only part of the eternal plan of redemption. Yet to come was the "high" of the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to be followed by the disgrace and shame of Calvary. But, when all seemed lost, came the "high" of the Resurrection. And this is the pattern of Christian life. Already, we are into the 2nd week of Lent.

Let us make a STOP - STOP stands for: S = Stop for a moment... T = Take a full deep breath... O = Observe... What am I aware of right now? The highs and lows of my life... how am I dealing with them? (What is alive in me? Can I be with it whatever is coming up right now?) P = Proceed... realistically, that the 'lows' are opportunities to transform the physical, the mundane to our spiritual and integral advantage. What do I choose to do now that I have stepped back and been an observer of myself? (Source duly acknowledged)

It is worth repeating that the good times don't last but neither do the bad.

God's blessings,

Fr. Vince

# PARISH NEWS



## Thursday Night Lenten Group

Take time this Lent to ponder the word of God, share your thoughts, and reflect on the year that was, and the year to come. Gather for just one hour each week of Lent.

Books available at Piety stall for \$8

When: Thursdays 7pm; Where: St Madeleine Function Centre

More info: Careyanne Moylan 0438791813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com



## Stations of the Cross

During Lent, come and reflect on the passion of Our Lord every Friday at 7pm in the church.



Come and pray the rosary after Morning Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Lent!

Time: 9.45am;

Contact: Kay - 0429965858; Lydia Ceccato - 0400372561



Please take home a **Project Compassion box** and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Be More". You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME CONFIRMATION

Enrolment and Commitment: **Tuesday, 9 March** at 4:30pm or 7pm. One parent is to attend for each child. Enrolment forms will be available online and on this night.

Information Sessions in the church for child and one parent only: **Sundays, 14, 21 and 28 March.**

Confirmation: **Friday, 30 April at 7pm** or **Sunday, 2 May at 12 noon.**

Contact Sandra De Nardi on 0410 587 735 or email [stmads.sacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmads.sacraments@gmail.com)

Please pray for families as their child is about to embark on this next phase of their sacramental journey.

## 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!



## Social Justice @ St Mads

Clean up Australia Day is next Sunday, you can join in at Fred Caterson reserve with the Landcare group <https://chen.org.au/2020/05/01/fred-caterson-bush-care-group/> Ideas for your home or work can be found on [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/)

Our Project Compassion story for this week is Margret from the Solomon Islands. Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. The school faced water shortages for about half the year. Staff and students would walk for up to half an hour to collect water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables. Then in April 2020, amidst the threat of COVID 19, Tropical Cyclone Harold struck, damaging school buildings and its vegetable garden. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed eight large water tanks and provided cyclone-proof materials to repair the damage.

<https://lent.caritas.org.au/week-2>



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

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

**1st Collection** (for Diocese) = \$752.95

**2nd Collection** (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1119.00

Loose = \$904.60

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$2000

**TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION** = \$4023.60

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 March 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](mailto: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, 14 February 2021

Valentina Di Giuseppe

Sunday, 21 February 2021

Renzo Valente



## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

### For recently deceased

Bishop Emeritus Bede Heather, Sr Mia Eufemia Buhagiar, Anne Langham, John Spencer, Suresh Hirudayanathan, Eileen Conti Zammit, Olive Burns



### For the dearly departed

Pedro, Rommel, Lourdes, Paul Spina, Engracia Corpuz, Rita Franceschina, Alegria Canseco-Ricafrente, Shaju Xavier, Nola Sorbello, Sam Sorbello, Michael Sorbello, Mary Ellen Bradley, Patrick Joseph Bradley, Enid & Laurie Riley, Shiela Lopez, Frank Sorbello, Mary Sorbello, Giuseppina Scarpin, Michele Vaccarella

### For healing of the sick

Imelda Pellison, Justin Ryan, Jasminka Medak, David Parslow, Maureen Burke, Murphy Family, Kerry Rogers, Michael O'Conner, Aureen Dunn, Nancy Anne Kazzi, Aura Krakowski, June Brennen, 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

**Welcomers 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

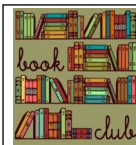
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5.00pm

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

**Weddings:** By appointment



We have been receiving a number of enquiries about Children's Liturgy as it has been nearly a year since we have provided this ministry! Although we are not recommending face to face at this stage, if you or your children are interested, there are some activity booklets available in the Piety Stall. Please help yourself! We look forward to recommending Children's Liturgy as soon as possible.



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



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



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>

### Oakhill College Open Day

We warmly invite prospective students and families to the Oakhill College Open Day on Sunday, 7th March from 10.00am—2.00pm. Join us for a student led tour around our beautiful campus and visit our subject displays, meet our staff and students, watch some of our co-curricular activities and a variety of performances.

Our Principal's Address is at 10.00am, 11.00am and 12.00pm. Bookings are essential, so please register on our website and for any COVID-19 updates: [www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au](http://www.oakhill.nsw.edu.au)



### St Madeleine's Primary School Enrolments 2022

Our Open Day is scheduled for Thursday 4th March 9am - 11am in the Hall. Come and hear from the school leadership team and experience a guided tour through our beautiful school. All welcome!

To register your interest in attending our Open Day please click on this link <https://www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au/>

We also have this link in the Forms sections of the St Madeleine's Skoolbag App. Please encourage your family and friends to come to our Open Day!



### St John Joseph of the Cross

Feast Day:  
5 March



Self denial is never an end in itself but it is only a help toward greater charity—as the life of Saint John Joseph shows.

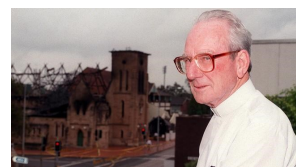
John Joseph was very ascetic even as a young man. At 16, he joined the Franciscans in Naples; he was the first Italian to follow the reform movement of Saint Peter Alcantara. John Joseph's reputation for holiness prompted his superiors to put him in charge of establishing a new friary even before he was ordained.

Obedience moved John Joseph to accept appointments as novice master, guardian and, finally provincial. His years of mortification enabled him to offer these services to the friars with great charity. As guardian he was not above working in the kitchen or carrying the wood or water needed by the friars.

When his term as provincial expired, John Joseph dedicated himself to hearing confessions and practicing mortification, two concerns contrary to the spirit of the dawning Age of Enlightenment. John Joseph of the Cross was canonized in 1839.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-joseph-of-the-cross>

Please remember in your prayers, the eternal repose of the soul of **Bishop Emeritus Bede Heather**. Bishop Bede was the first bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta. He passed away on Thursday morning at St Ezekiel Moreno Nursing Home, Croydon. Please remember his family in your prayers.



**DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA**

### Positions Vacant:

Social Justice Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 5pm 22 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](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19)

### Institute for Mission 2021 formation programs – sign up today

Interested or already involved in your parish community initiatives? Looking to explore key themes of the Catholic tradition? Express your interest today in the Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry and Themes of Faith programs for your life and faith enrichment. They are 100% free and begin in early March in an online format. For more information, contact Sr Grace on 9296 6369 or [grace.rocawaska@ifm.org.au](mailto:grace.rocawaska@ifm.org.au) or Donnie on 0432042140 or [donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au](mailto:donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au)

### Join the bellringers of St Patrick's Cathedral

The Peal of Bells of St Patrick's Cathedral have been officially installed. Bell ringing commences 10.30am Sundays ahead of the Solemn Mass. If you would like to enquire about learning to ring the bells, please contact Fr Christopher Del Rosario on [Christopher.Del-Rosario@parracatholic.org](mailto:Christopher.Del-Rosario@parracatholic.org). For further information, please visit <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/bellsofstpatricks/>

### Project Compassion – Virtual Immersions

Each week during this Lenten season, Caritas Australia is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities for parishes via Zoom video conferencing. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour across Australia. You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au).

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[belinda@bellaslawgroup.com.au](mailto:belinda@bellaslawgroup.com.au)

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conveyancing and family law needs

27/28 FEB		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Brendan Ford	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina Belinda Da Ruos
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Sandra Tabone Careyanne Moylan	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers	Patrick McNeil	Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS	Lisa Jacob	Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	LENT: NO FLOWERS		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Saunders
6/7 MARCH	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			
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	LENT: NO FLOWERS		ALTAR LINEN	Frances Saunders