



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

14 March 2021
4th Sunday of Lent, Year B
2 Chr 36: 14–16, 19–23
Eph 2: 4–10
Jn 3: 14–21

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't - Blaise Pascal

Today's first reading makes us think of the current situation we are in. The Babylon-exiled Jewish people were allowed to return to Jerusalem by the Persian King Cyrus. As they came back to Jerusalem, they faced the task of rebuilding the temple. As the restrictions are eased and we see our faithful returning to Mass, it is great indeed and we thank God! We need to rebuild our parish community as we begin to recover from the devastation of the pandemic. We have just commenced preparing our children for the Sacrament of Confirmation which I see vital in our rebuilding effort. Kindly keep them in your fervent prayers that they may be enlightened and empowered by the Holy Spirit. A few brothers and sisters will receive the Easter Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This Sunday, they receive their Second Scrutiny which is all about release from anything that has enslaved them from experiencing the true love and joy of life. Together with them, we experience the goodness of God. Lent is a gracious time to rebuild our individual lives; our families and communities in the love and light of Jesus Christ. May we never forget that we are the "image and likeness of God"!

A little wave was bobbing along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He's enjoying the wind and the fresh air until he notices the other waves in front of him, crashing against the shore. "My God, this is terrible," the wave says. "Look what's going to happen to me!" Then along comes another wave. It sees the first wave, looking grim, and it says to him, "Why do you look so sad?" The first wave says, "You don't understand! We're all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn't this terrible?" The second wave says, "No, YOU don't understand. You're not a wave; you're part of the ocean."

"In his late-night conversation with the Pharisee Nicodemus, Jesus presents a very different picture of God — and of ourselves. Jesus reveals to Nicodemus a God of life and restoration, a God who seeks not our punishment or humiliation but our healing and reconciliation with him and with one another. The God Jesus revealed is not the God of condemnation and destruction but the God of forgiveness, mercy and compassion. And that should help us re-imagine ourselves: that, created in God's love, we are more than the superficialities of appearance and assets, of wit and social graces. In the light of his Christ, we come to realize the good in ourselves that we often do not see; in that light, we find joy and reason to be grateful for the good that others bring to our lives. As Jesus explains to Nicodemus, God has created us as an extension of himself: from the moment of our creation, his life and love are part of our very being. In our embracing of his Spirit of justice and mercy, in our work to re-make our world in his dream of compassion and peace, the love in which we were created transforms our lives and the lives of those we love and who love us into the very light and love of God" (A Sampler Connections)

Once upon a time, 5 lamps burning in a home had been speaking amongst themselves. The first lamp stated – "People of my light have no appreciation even after burning so much, then it would be better that I be extinguished" and that lamp was extinguished. That lamp was an emblem of enthusiasm. After a while, the second lamp, an image of peace, was extinguished by the unrest being unfolded through individuals. Now it was the flip of the third lamp of braveness, his braveness was additionally answered and he too was extinguished.

Seeing the situation of enthusiasm, peace and braveness, the fourth lamp symbolizing prosperity was extinguished. Now the fifth lamp, which was the youngest, lit the lights alone. There was a boy inside a home. Seeing the burning lamp, he began dancing fortunately after which with one lamp, the remaining 4 lamps lit once more. The fifth lamp was the lamp of hope.

It is alleged that the world rests on hope. There is all the possibility for us to lose hope in all the sorrows and sufferings in our personal, familial and communal lives. This Sunday brings the light of Christ into our hearts that we continue our journey with His love and Light.

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.

When: Thursdays 7pm; Where: St Madeleine Function Centre
More info: Careyanne Moylan 0438791813 or careyanmoylan@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

Preparation Sessions for **Confirmation** in the Church for child and 1 parent:
Sundays, 14, 21 and 28 March at 3pm or 4pm

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

Enrolment and Commitment Meeting for Reconciliation and First Eucharist:
Tuesday, 18 May at 4.30pm or 7pm.

In order to enrol your Year 3 (or above) child one parent is required to attend this meeting.

Sandra De Nardi — M: 0410 587 735 or email stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

Please pray for our families as their children are about to embark on this next phase of their sacrament journey.

Social Justice @ St Mads

Our Social Justice team @ St Mad's shared all the different works happening across our parish last week. Suzanne mentioned that we do need more helpers to deliver bread and goods out to Hawkesbury Helping Hands, if you are interested in assisting please contact Suzanne or myself Sue Martin sue@kcj.net.au or 0432-716-577.

National Harmony day next Sunday 21st March, Resilience Sydney is calling on us all to hold Neighbourhood gathering, get to know our neighbours. Harmony Day promotes social cohesion and racial harmony, and it is expressed through community participation, inclusiveness, celebrating diversity, respect and belonging. The designated colour for Harmony Day is orange.

Our Be More Caritas ambassador this week is Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, who had no toilet in his home, so he had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area, even at night or in the rain. Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population practice open defecation, with many unaware that it contributes to spreading diseases. Arsad's family was often sick and open defecation caused neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, he took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He decided to fund the building of a toilet in his house and facilitated others in his neighbourhood to save up for toilets. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dqWclbMCF0>



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 16 March at 7.30pm send me an email to register. careyanmoylan@hotmail.com



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 careyanmoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813



Women's Prayer Day

Join us for a day of reflection for Lent and reconciliation. We connect with place, spirit, and heart to reconcile our world, refresh our minds and strengthen relationships. Date: 27 March. Where: Annangrove. Time: 9.30 – 1pm and on. Numbers limited. COVID safe. Contact: Careyanne Moylan 0438791813 or careyanmoylan@hotmail.com



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) = \$1438.40

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$2546.00

Loose = \$1164.40

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$5692.40

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, 10 April 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, 14th March 2021

Harvey Saunders



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Kevin Thompson, Marie Linney, Bishop Emeritus Bede Heather, Sr Mia Eufemia Buhagiar, Anne Langham, John Spencer

For the dearly departed

Mary & Anthony Barbuto, Eriberto Adan, Cescilita Villavert Motril, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Maria & Mateo Desanti, Olive Burns, Lourdes, Juana, Salvador, Romel. Vincenzina Americano, Sebasiano Agresta, Giuseppe Mileto, Mariae Rosario Agresta, Domenica & Francesco Campanella, Giuseppina & Giuseppi Papalia, Benito Sabellano, Nelly Castanares, Giovanni & Marietta Dominello, Anthony D'Anastasi, Pedro, Rommel, Lourdes, Paul Spina, Engracia Corpuz, Rita Franceschina, Alegria Canseco-Ricafrente, Shaju Xavier, Nola Sorbello, Sam Sorbello, Michael Sorbello

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, Giuseppi 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

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



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 recommencing Children's Liturgy as soon as possible.



Stay in touch through our
parish Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-
Parish](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/
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the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal



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OPEN DAY

Saturday 13th March 2021



Includes:

Presentation by Principal / Headmaster and guided school tours.

Session 1: 10am - 12pm
Session 2: 1pm - 3pm

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(02) 9651 0360

Session 1: 10:00am - 12:30pm
Session 2: 12:30pm - 2:30pm

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(02) 9651 0381

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal

Help CatholicCare chaplains bring comfort, faith and hope to the sick and isolated. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare chaplains provide spiritual, sacramental and emotional support in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal your-catholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you for accompanying them on their journey.

St Patrick

Feast Day: 17 March

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by

our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the good news to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

Cont...

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



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

St Patrick's Gift Shop Manager – St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta – Applications close 14 March 2021

Diocese of Parramatta Senior Receptionist – Bethany Centre, Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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

Vale Bishop Bede Heather

The life of the first Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta, Bishop Bede Heather, was celebrated in a Mass of Christian Burial at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Thursday 4 March. Bishop Bede was born on December 7, 1928 and ordained a priest on July 15, 1951. He retired as Bishop of Parramatta in 1997. Bishop Bede Heather died today on 25 February 2021, aged 92. Read more at: shorturl.at/moCP2

Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome are dealing with a 400% increase in emergency assistance calls and are needing to feed over 1,000 people facing destitution each week. You can help by running a food and toiletry drive or donating yourself. For more information, contact House of Welcome on office@houseofwelcome.com.au or (02) 9727 9290 or JRS on foodbank@jrs.org.au or (02) 9098 9336.

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.

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13/14 MARCH		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino		Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Darren McNeil	Phyllis Hannah	
	READERS	Mary Sammut	Belinda Da Ruos Tony Hooper	David Hall-O'Dwyer Adriana Kennedy	Simmy Cesamolo Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Tara & Sam Coddington		Christopher Kang Monica & Dom Bruggeling	
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	LENT: NO FLOWERS		ALTAR LINEN	Kathy Fenech

20/21 MARCH	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	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS		Patrick McNeil	Elizabeth Cauchi	Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS	Lisa Jacob	Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	LENT: NO FLOWERS		ALTAR LINEN	Kathy Fenech