



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

21 March 2021
5th Sunday of Lent, Year B

Ez 31: 31–34

Heb 5: 7–9

John 12: 20–30

DYING – A RE-IMAGINED INVITATION

The human experience is a cycle of loss and renewal. The Christian journey consists of repentance and restoration. Life is both a gift and burden.

John 12:20-33 opens with this scene. Some Greeks approach Philip and say to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ I can only imagine they must have heard the amazing miracles Jesus had been performing. This was a man who turned water into wine, healed all manner of sickness, walked on water, and even raised Lazarus from the dead. Who would not want to have an encounter with this Jesus? When Philip and Andrew tell Jesus about the Greeks’ request he responds with: ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.’ Jesus puts the spotlight on ‘dying’ and its spiritual significance.

In the pandemic landscape in which we find ourselves, death is all around us. Thousands globally have died from COVID19. Hundreds of migrants have died making desperate and dangerous journeys crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Many black lives have died under the scourge of racism, its injustices, and inequalities. The natural world is dying at the hands of human behaviour.

Death is all around us but dying is more than the physical. Throughout our lives, we die many times over through a whole range of losses – the death of a loved one, the end of a dream, the breakdown in a relationship, the deterioration of a person’s health, and navigating the stages of life. Through all these losses we experience so many emotions: anger, regret, guilt, despair, unforgiveness and fear. But it is in the pit of darkness, it is in the depths of our dying, that we see Jesus.

RESTORATION – A RE-IMAGINED HOSPITALITY

Jesus calls us to be a grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies. Because it is in the dying that we have the potential to bear much fruit. It is in the total surrender and dying that new life can emerge. Rowan Williams reminds us, ‘God always has the capacity to do something fresh and different, to bring something new out of a situation’ (2007, 16).

Despite the brokenness of our world, there is hope that our churches and communities can be re-imagined through the lens of God’s generous love. Scripture reminds us again and again of the God-centred paradigm of sacrificial and radical hospitality which embraces the dead and the dying. God’s love has the power to heal, resurrect and enable human flourishing.

Jesus’ relationships underscored unconditional love and acceptance with those on the margins. Therefore, the truth of the gospel message is that God is found in vulnerability: in the grain of wheat. His presence is revealed, and people encounter Christ when we take up the invitation to create communities where all people know a God-centred acceptance and belonging in his kingdom-family.

So, the challenge for all of us is to open ourselves to the process of dying – as Jesus himself did on the journey to the cross – and invite God as the psalmist does in Psalm 51 to ‘create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.’

What grain of wheat in your life needs to die to enable you to reimagine generous hospitality to those in our society who are dying under the weight of injustice? Perhaps it is as we let go and see God in those dead places that we have the potential to bear much fruit for the kingdom (The above reflection is from ‘The College of Preachers’)

God’s blessings,

Fr Vince

**Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain
of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 12:24**



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 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

All are welcome to join for **2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday, 24th March** at 5:30pm and 7pm. It will be held in the church. You are encouraged to come as this will be a good way to prepare for Holy Week.

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

Halima from Bangladesh fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017, arriving at the camp with nothing. She participated in hygiene and sanitation training and took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets. "My hope is that our children will be able to do a job, to live with pleasure, they will find their happiness - that will bring wellbeing for them," Halima says.

<https://lent.caritas.org.au/week-5>

Update from Timor Leste – Dili the capital has gone into lockdown for the first time as cases grow. Keep Cailaco Parish in your prayers.

Palm Sunday traditionally is a day to call for peace. The Office for Social Justice invites you on Palm Sunday, and beyond, to pray for justice and peace in Myanmar. The Palm Sunday Rally this year is calling to "Free the refugees - close all the camps; Permanent visas not poverty" will be held Belmore Park 2pm

www.facebook.com/PalmSundayRallySydney/



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. careyannemoylan@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 careyannemoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1232.00

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1073.00

Loose = \$1356.45

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4429.45

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, 21st March 2021

Orlando D'Annunzio



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Warwick Rule, Kevin Thompson, Marie Linney, Bishop Emeritus Bede Heather, Sr Mia Eufemia Buhagiar



For the dearly departed

Don Winning, Adele Conte Ceccato, Jeremy Vajda, 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, Sebastiano Agresta, Giuseppi 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

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 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



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 careyannemoylan@hotmail.com



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 recommencing 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.

Altar Linen Ministry

The altar linen ministry is performed by a small group of generous and dedicated parishioners. In recent months, two long serving members of this group, Pat Brush and Pat Grogan, have decided to retire. Besides being a long-term member of this group, Pat Brush was also the coordinator of the ministry for many years. We thank these ladies for their generosity in skill, energy and time. We have been very lucky to welcome a number of new volunteers to the ministry over the last several years, which has been a blessing for our community. Anyone who is able to commit to washing and ironing the linen and towels used in the celebration of our weekly liturgies would be warmly welcomed to join this group. Please phone Catherine Diekman on 0416 011 494 or 96296682 or email cdiekman@bigpond.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

Annunciation of the Lord

Feast Day:
25 March

The feast of the Annunciation, now



recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity. Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

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

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:

Graphic Designer – Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 28 March

Digital Content Creator – Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 28 March

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

Catholic Outlook Lent/Easter edition out now!

Catholic Outlook Easter edition is out now and free to all parishioners. We feature a range of articles on developing faith in the family as well as the highlights of Holy Week. Pick up your free copy from your local Catholic Church, Catholic School or Catholic office today.

Pastoral Council Formation and Training

The Pastoral Planning Office are hosting monthly Zoom sessions offering tips, tricks and best practice in a variety of areas for healthy and productive parish, deanery and diocesan pastoral councils. Sessions will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm to 9pm. If you are on a council or work closely with our councils, claim this date. Register at

<https://tinyurl.com/serving-christs-mission> or contact Lisa for more information on 0448 652 720 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

Rouse Hill Parish Mission – 24 to 28 March

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Rouse Hill, are hosting a series of events from Wednesday 24 March to Sunday 28 March as part of the parish's mission. All events are free and open to everyone. Join them each night for times of prayer, music, talks, fellowship and real-life stories of people's journeys in faith. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 8883 4063 or email parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au



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| | | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | 5:30PM SUNDAY |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 20/21 MARCH | WELCOMERS | Belinda Da Ruos | Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell | | Joseph Spina |
| | MINISTERS OF THE | 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 | | Joan Sattler | Anucia & Team | |
| | COUNTERS | Parish Team | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | To be announced |
| | FLOWERS | LENT: NO FLOWERS | | ALTAR LINEN | Kathy Fenech |
| 27/28 MARCH | WELCOMERS | Dianne Millington | Brendan Ford | Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone | Joseph Spina Lidia Ceccato |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | John Puleo | Darren McNeil | Joe Touma | Jhun Javier |
| | READERS | Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating | Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks | Sandra Tabone | 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 | Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | To be announced |
| | FLOWERS | LENT: NO FLOWERS | | ALTAR LINEN | Sonaldi Arnold |