



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

25 April 2021
4th Sunday of Easter, Year B
Acts 4: 8–12
1 Jn 3: 1–2
John 10: 11–18

“A good shepherd has a positive influence on his people through "inward work", i.e., working on them from the inside.” – Pastor Adelia Sunday

An elderly priest was upset with the things he was hearing during Saturday confessions. After his sermon one Sunday morning, he said to his congregation, "I'm tired of hearing so many people tell me in confession that they have cheated. For thirty years, people have been saying to me "I have cheated with Anthony... I have cheated with Mary... I have cheated with Frankie." I am sick and tired of hearing this word. From now on, when you come into my confessional, you will say "I have fallen with Anthony, or with Mary, or with Frankie." No more using the word CHEAT. It will be FALL."

About a year later, the old priest retired and was replaced by a younger man. No one thought to tell the new priest about the change of words in the confessional. After hearing his first round of Saturday confessions, the young priest went to the mayor of the town and said to him, "Mr. Mayor, you are going to have to do something about the deplorable condition of the streets and sidewalks in this town. Everybody is telling me they are falling all over the place." The mayor immediately understood the problem, and he leaned back in his chair and laughed. The priest was puzzled, and said, "Mr. Mayor, you shouldn't be laughing! Your wife told me that just last week she fell three times!"

Ever heard the expression “to know is to love”? When we’re talking in a general way, it is certainly true that we can hardly be expected to fall in love with someone we don’t know. But the statement “to know is to love” is not completely true when it is a question of human relationships. In these relationships, it is more accurate to say “to love is to know”, i.e., that once we have decided to love others, to commit ourselves to other people, we open ourselves to them and they in turn, reciprocate by committing and opening themselves to us.

Jesus expresses this truth when he says: "Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn. 14:21) Francis de Sales echoes this truth by telling us, "Knowledge of the good can give us the beginning of love but not its measure." (Treatise, Book 6, chap. 4)

In today’s Gospel, Jesus makes a surprising and startling revelation about his relationship with us. “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me in the same way that the Father knows me and I know the Father.” He is saying that he knows us as intimately and as personally as his heavenly Father knows him and we in turn know him the way he knows the Father. The kind of knowledge that Christ our Good Shepherd has for each one of us is only acquired by a very close and intimate contact with us. It is a result of his love for us, of his willingness to commit himself totally and completely to us, just as a shepherd totally and completely commits himself, his entire life to his sheep.

If we reflect on the relationship of a shepherd to his sheep, we see that his whole life is centred on the lives of his sheep. The shepherd is with them all day long, and many times throughout the night he watches over them. It’s no surprise then that he gets to know all of the peculiarities, all of the individual traits of each of his sheep and gives them each a name. To others his sheep may all look the same, but to their shepherd, each is different and distinct. So, he has no trouble whatsoever picking his own out from among hundreds in the sheep pen.

The parable of the Good Shepherd is not so far removed from us as we might first be inclined to believe. It touches the very well-springs of our being - our need to be known and loved for who we are, no matter what. We might sometimes think, feel or act in ways that are as smelly and dirty as most sheep are; we might get into all kinds of trouble by straying from our shepherd, like the sheep who get caught in bramble bushes, fall into rocky crags or have a hundred and one missteps. Nevertheless, our Good Shepherd is there to bind up our wounds. He knows and loves us to the extent that he puts his life on the line for us. Like the Good Shepherd, do we put ourselves on the line for one another even in simple ways? (*Source duly acknowledged*)

God’s blessings,

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

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

We are currently taking every precaution to safeguard our community from COVID transmission. If you are willing to donate anti-bacterial wipes and hand sanitisers for use in our church, we would be very grateful. Thanking you in advance for your generosity!



Social Justice @ St Mads

World Fair Trade Day - 8 May this is a day where we can reflect on our purchasing and procurement policies and see what are the practical ways we can support ethical and fair trade practices.

<https://ethica.org.au/>

Laudato Si' week May 21st reflection – Sowers of Hope. Earthcare / Social Justice Office Friday 5:30pm May 21st <http://bit.ly/sowersofhope>

Laudato Si' week challenge <https://jesuit.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Laudato-Si-week-202110.pdf>

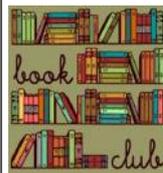


Anzac day – 2021

We remember all Australians who served, and who serve today.

We remember grieving families, cities in rubble, and fields turned to mud and ashes.

We continue to work wholeheartedly for justice and peace in our world



We had an in-depth discussion on the issues of life, death, after-life and forgiveness. We are now exploring Thomas Merton's autobiography, Seven Story Mountain, which looks at his spiritual pilgrimage. Next meeting 18 May, 2021, 7.30pm.

If you would like to join our zoom group send me an email to register.careyanmoylan@hotmail.com



Come to hear and participate in the Listening and Sharing rounds of the themes of the Plenary. There are three sessions, examining two themes in each one. Every week there will be a day and night session. We continue on 27 April 9.45am and repeated on 29 April 7pm in St Madeleine Function Room. The sessions will take

90 minutes. The two themes will be "Prayerful and Eucharistic" and "Humble, Healing and Merciful." Your responses will be recorded and shared with the council.

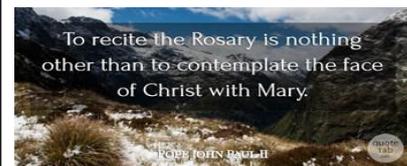
For further information contact Careyanne Moylan 0438791813

Copies of the documents are available from this site:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>



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



Come and pray the rosary after Morning Mass on Thursdays!

Time: 9.45am;

Contact: Kay - 0429965858

Lydia Ceccato - 0400372561

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1226.45

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1701.00

Loose = \$1109.40

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$1532.00

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4342.40

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, 1 May 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, 25th April 2021

Francesca Nardo



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

John O'Brien, Frangiska Dimech, Carole Philomena Roberts, June Brennan, Betty Merhi, Bishop Metod Birah



For the dearly departed

Paul Cascun, Christy & Breda Sherlock, John Henry Doyle, Ann Kennedy, Jim Leyne, David & Adelaide Baldi, Ben & Paula Dieudonne, Milagria Assumpta Castelino, Martin Mileto, Marlon S. Alumios, Wilfredo Lising, Vickie Rose Camilleri, Annamaria Spina, Pietro Ceccato, Ferraro Family, Jed Manning, Dan Doyle, Maureen Deeham, Michele Vaccarella, Mary Merhi, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Shedly & Chahide Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha

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 Brennan, 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

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

Congratulations to the children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday!
Please continue to pray for them in this new chapter of their faith journey.



Join us for live-stream Masses on
Sunday at 10 am on

ON AIR

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

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parish Facebook page:

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THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In the early Church, the figure of Christ as the Good Shepherd was a prominent image. This image is seen often in early Christian art. Clearly, it had great meaning for the early Christians since it often appeared, painted or sculpted, in the catacombs and on sarcophagi and baptismal fonts. Clearly, our ancestors in the Christian faith were moved by this image of Jesus. These effigies by the first generations of Christians show us that the image of Christ as the Good Shepherd was an image of faith that touched their hearts in a special way.

Already in the Old Testament, the figure of the shepherd was an image for God. The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel spoke of God as the shepherd of the people of Israel. The people were referred to as the Lord's flock. There is a particularly moving reflection on God as shepherd of His people in the famous Psalm 23 which begins: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." In this beautiful psalm, the author writes that he lacks nothing as long as the shepherd is with him. He speaks of letting God, his shepherd, lead him to safe pastures: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Cont...

Source: <https://todayscatholic.org/the-good-shepherd/>

St Louis de Montfort

Feast Day:
27 April

Louis's life is inseparable

from his efforts to promote genuine devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. Totus tuus ("completely yours") was Louis's personal motto; Pope John Paul II chose it as his episcopal motto.

Born in the Breton village of Montfort, close to Rennes, France, as an adult Louis identified himself by the place of his baptism instead of his family name, Grignon. After being educated by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians, he was ordained a diocesan priest in 1700.

Soon he began preaching parish missions throughout western France. His years of ministering to the poor prompted him to travel and live very simply, sometimes getting him into trouble with Church authorities. In his preaching, which attracted thousands of people back to the faith, Father Louis recommended frequent, even daily, Holy Communion—not the custom then!—and imitation of the Virgin Mary's ongoing acceptance of God's will for her life.

Louis founded the Missionaries of the Company of Mary, for priests and brothers, and the Daughters of Wisdom, who cared especially for the sick. His book True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin has become a classic explanation of Marian devotion.

Louis died in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, where a basilica has been erected in his honor. He was canonized in 1947, and his liturgical feast is celebrated on April 28.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-louis-mary-grignon-de-montfort>



A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN distributes over one million Bibles and religious books thanks to the help of our benefactors every year. Jesus commanded "Go out into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation." ACN takes this command seriously by spreading the faith through these



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Children's Bibles. Often in poor countries, the Children's Bible is the first book that children receive in their own language and frequently, it is the only picture book that they will ever hold. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/bibles



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

Young Christian Students Worker (full-time) – Parramatta Young Christian Workers – Applications close Monday 30 April

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

CatholicCare Blacktown Neighbourhood Aid Volunteers Needed

Blacktown Neighbour Aid, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to support our senior clients in the Blacktown area to remain living independently in their own home. If you feel you would like to make a positive difference to other's lives in this way, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolcott on 0418 114 055 or email deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au.

Introduction to Safeguarding Training

The Diocese of Parramatta is launching new online Safeguarding training for all parish staff and volunteers. Zoom sessions to introduce the training will be held 2pm-3pm on April 28 or May 5. More information to follow or email Sonia Fingleton at the Diocese at Sonia.fingleton@parracatholic.org

Pastoral Council Formation and Training

The Pastoral Planning Office are hosting monthly Zoom sessions offering best practice in a variety of areas for parish, deanery and diocesan pastoral councils to Serve Christ's mission. Sessions will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm to 9pm. To share and grow with other parish councils, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/serving-christs-mission> or contact Lisa for more information on 0448 652 720 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

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24/25 APRIL		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Brendan Ford Carol & Terry Scott	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina Lidia Ceccato
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo		Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Sandra Tabone	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers		Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Belle Craig		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
FLOWERS	Donated by Diane Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper	
1/2 MAY	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	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	Diane Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper