



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

4 April 2021
Easter Sunday, Year B

Acts 10: 34, 37-43

Col 3: 1-4

John 20: 1-9

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake

- Basil Hume

Without enlisting the names, I would like to extend my profound thanks to everyone who worked hard and contributed generously in one way or other for the Holy Week celebrations. Your support for the spiritual growth of our community is indeed incredible. God loves what you do to our community. As Winston Churchill says, "you make a life by what you give". I would like to thank everyone of you for your active participation in the Holy Week Liturgies. Our community is progressing in compliance with the COVID restrictions in the spirit of belonging to God and to one another. Your support and your involvement I earnestly look for towards the integral growth of our community. To be a volunteer, it takes... Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others; Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better; Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might; Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through. We need more volunteers in attending to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our people. Kindly come on board and let us make a difference in the lives of our sisters and brothers.



We are delighted to welcome Jinwen Zhu, Kaien Liu, Grace Liu, Luke Nielsen, Matt Gault, Koby Gault and Rocky Gault who, through the receiving of the Sacraments of Initiation, have become a part of the local and universal church. We congratulate Messina Downie, Pasquella Downie and Sabella Downie who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Easter. May we continue to keep them in our prayers that they may bring the light of risen Christ into their respective families and communities.

The first Easter was an incredible day, one that started with disbelief, with fear and trembling and bewilderment beside the empty tomb, and ended with astonishment, excitement and thanksgiving.

When Jesus died, the hopes of the disciples and other followers died, their convictions died, indeed their faith died and they huddled in the upper room where they had celebrated the Last Supper hiding there in fear of being captured by the authorities and be subjected to torture as they had done to their Master, Jesus.

What is striking about the first Easter day is that the Church is founded not only on the proclamation of Peter that Jesus is the messiah, but also on the testimony of the women who brought the news of the rising of Jesus! With resurrection, their faith was made strong, the dead convictions came back to life and the lost hopes were restored. It is because of the resurrection; the disciples came out of the locked room with courage and tenacity to lay down their lives. Jesus is the Lord of the living and the dead. St Paul says that "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day - also according to the Scriptures.

Brother and Sisters in faith - The resurrection is the most important thing that we believe in as Christians. The resurrection is the centre of our faith, it is the foundation of our Christian experience, and it is the goal towards which our lives move. We are promised that what we believe will make a difference to us --- And indeed it does...

A story is told that in Russia a few years ago, a railway worker accidentally locked himself in a refrigerator car. Unable to escape or to attract attention, he resigned himself to his fate. As he felt his body becoming numb, he took a pencil out of his pocket and recorded the story of his approaching death. He scribbled on the walls of the car: "I am becoming colder... still colder... I am slowly freezing... half asleep - these may be my last words. When the car was opened, the man was found dead, but the temperature of the car was only about 56 degrees. Officials found that the freezing mechanism was out of order and that there was plenty of fresh air available. Although there was no physical reason that they could find for the man had died. It was concluded that he had died because he had believed that he would die.

We live in a world that is not quick to believe. There are so many things which occupy our thoughts and time, preoccupations and running after fame, power, importance and inordinate desire to have massive wealth or sophistications that do not lend themselves to belief in God. Many of the worldly things keep people locked into themselves which destroy true freedom, defeat growth in virtue and blind one to eternity.

This long year has felt like we have been locked in – not just restricted to our homes because of the pandemic. Locked in because we can't break a habit; are confined by a sickness or disability; the death of a loved one can cast a Good Friday shadow over the rest of our lives; the natural world is crumbling into an environmental Good Friday; nations are tearing themselves up with forces even within their own borders. We can feel locked up in a "Good Friday world," without an easy escape device to get us out. There is no quick and easy escape device for us from a lot of the situations we are in these days. But because of what God did for Jesus, we believe God can also do for us; maybe not instantly, but step-by-step, from the dark of any tomb, little by little into the light of Easter Sunday. Good Friday may continue for us for a while, but today reminds us that God has won the final victory.
(Source acknowledged)

Let us believe it and live our life in the light of the resurrection, for Good Friday is not for ever, but Easter is for ever!

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

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

Social Justice @ St Mads

Some good news with the appointment of Dr Sebastian Salaske-Lentern as the new Peace Justice and Ecology coordinator for Parramatta Diocese.

Sebastian comes from the University of Munster as a Research Associate and Associate Lecturer in Systematic Theology for the Institute of Catholic Theology, and has spent time in the Catholic Diocese of San Ramón de la Nueva Orán (Argentina) as a Jesuit Mission Volunteer.



Something to consider Passion for the Earth, Laudato Si' Camp for Adults from Tuesday 6th July – Thursday 8th July 2021 in Woonglemai. To register and more details contact Br Frank Richardson Seven Hills parish frichardson131@gmail.com

Gain insights into the journey towards the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. You can access the podcasts on Anchor or podcasts on Spotify.



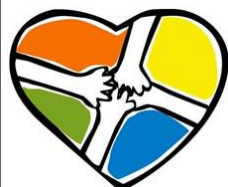
St Mads Book Club is continuing via zoom. We are reading *The Shack*, a novel by Canadian author William P. Young that was published in 2007. After his daughter's murder, a grieving father confronts God with desperate questions -- and finds unexpected answers -- in this riveting and deeply moving #1 NYT bestseller. In an age where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant for some, *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? If you would like to join our zoom group on Tuesday 20 April 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

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1800.95

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1439.00

Loose = \$1433.35

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$2000

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4872.35

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.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Carole Philomena Roberts, June Brennan, Betty Merhi, Bishop Metod Birah, Warwick Rule, Kevin Thompson



For the dearly departed

Annamaria Spina, Pietro Ceccato, Ferraro Family, Jed Manning, Dan Doyle, Maureen Deeham, Michele Vaccarella, Mary Merhi, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Shedly & Chahide Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Hajje, Don Winning, Adele Conte Ceccato, Jeremy Vajda, Mary & Anthony Barbuto, Eriberto Adan, Cesclita Villavert Motril, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Maria & Mateo Desanti, Olive Burns, Lourdes, Juana, Salvador, Romel

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

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



Stay in touch through our
parish Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
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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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Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Terry Brennan and his family, who lost June Brennan, dedicated mother and wife. The funeral will be held on Tuesday, 6th April at 11am.



Our prayers go to wife Mavis and the family who lost their beloved husband and father, John O'Brien. The funeral is on Thursday, 8th April at 1pm.

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I see the empty chair; I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." "I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, "Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest." "Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, "I'll be with you always." "Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now." "So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm." The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. "Did he die in peace?" he asked. "Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?" The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

St Casilda

Feast Day:
9 April



Some saints' names are far more familiar to us than others, but even the lives of obscure holy persons teach us something.

And so it is with Saint Casilda. Her father was a Muslim leader in Toledo, Spain, in the 10th century. Casilda was a devout Muslim but was kind to Christian prisoners. She became ill as a young woman but did not trust that any of the local Arab doctors could cure her. So she made a pilgrimage to the shrine of San Vicenzo in northern Spain. Like so many other people who made their way there—many of them suffering from hemorrhages—Casilda sought the healing waters of the shrine. We're uncertain what brought her to the shrine, but we do know that she left it relieved of illness.

In response, she became a Christian and lived a life of solitude and penance not far from the miraculous spring. It's said that she lived to be 100 years old. Her death likely occurred around the year 1050.

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



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: As we approach the Holy Season of Easter consider offering up a Mass for your loved ones and supporting priests in need. The Mass will be offered up for your intentions by priests in the poorest parts of the world who have no other means of support. You can also send them a Mass card. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings



**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

Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter on Holy Week 2021

Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral letter to the people of Parramatta on the coronavirus and Holy Week 2021. The letter can be read here: shorturl.at/flvQ4

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/serve-christs-mission> or contact Lisa for more information on 0448 652 720 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

Young Adult Faith Formation: 11 April

Young Adult faith formation sessions continue on Sunday 11 April at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury, at 7pm. Christian Stephens will speak and lead discussion on the topic of Jesus: Liar, Lunatic or Lord? We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

Dr Laurie Woods Gospel Study Series

CCD is pleased to offer a Study of the Gospel of St John with Dr Laurie Woods over 5 Fridays – 23 and 30 April and 7, 14 and 21 May. These sessions, held from 9.30am to 2pm, will open our eyes to the depth of this Gospel and its application to everyday life, and are open to all. Please register with Maree at maree.collis@parracatholic.org or phone (02) 8838 3486.



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|-------------|---------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 3/4 APRIL | | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | NO 5:30PM MASS EASTER SUNDAY |
| | WELCOMERS | Dianne Millington | Rosa & Tony Carlino Helen & Charlie Harb | Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy | |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | Joe Touma | Phyllis Hannah | Joe Touma | |
| | READERS | Colleen Dunlop, David Hall, Rosanna Ceroli, Lidia Ceccato, Joanna O'Neil | Gerry McArdle Nigel Saunders | Adriana Kennedy Roslyn Earl | |
| | JNR MINISTERS | Kerstin Grima | Bailey & Casey Gambrell | Christian Maait Elizabeth Cauchi | |
| | MUSICIANS | Merle Fonseca | Bev Balnaves & Pat Brush | Mark Huxley | |
| | COUNTERS | Parish Team | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | |
| FLOWERS | Donated by Cosmo Muroccca | | ALTAR LINEN | Sonaldi Arnold | |
| 10/11 APRIL | WELCOMERS | Trish Keating | Fran & Rocco Scardino | | Nicole Foxall Joseph Spina |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | Dianne Millington | 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 | Bailey & Casey Gambrell | Christopher Kang Monica & Dom Bruggeling | |
| | MUSICIANS | | Joan Sattler | Merle & Doug | |
| | COUNTERS | Sandra Tabone & Zakia Touma | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | To be announced |
| | FLOWERS | WEDDING | | ALTAR LINEN | TBC |