



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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STMADS@YAHOO.COM.AU
(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

2nd May 2021
5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 9: 26—31

1 Jn 3: 18—24

John 15: 1—8

The Lord is knocking at the door of our hearts. Have we put a sign on the door saying: 'Do not disturb'? - Pope Francis

The story is told about a priest who accompanied a man sentenced to die by electric chair to the death chamber. Once seated, the prisoner said: "Father, I have one last request." The priest said: "Anything, my son." Then the prisoner said: "Father, I am so scared. Please remain here, stay with me, and hold my hand till the end."

In today's gospel, Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine and the branches to teach us lessons about our Christian life. First of all, the image reminds us that God is the real owner of everything that we have and are. He is the vine grower. He does to us what he thinks is good and right. We belong fully to God. We should not allow our selfishness and pride to make us think that we have absolute control over our lives. Rather, we always have to be open to God's action, confident that he knows fully what is good for us.

Second, the image teaches us that Jesus is the source of our life and the point which connects us with one another. He is the vine and we are the branches. A branch cut off from the vine will wither and die. And so, it is with our life as disciples – we live fully and become fruitful only by remaining in Christ. In the gospel of John, the word "abide" appears at least thirty-seven times: "Abiding in God", "abiding in Christ", and "abiding in his Word". We need to remain in Christ because apart from him, we can do nothing.

And finally, the image tells us that in order to stay healthy and fruitful we need pruning. Vine growers know that the act of pruning is good to the branch. If the branch is not pruned for a long time, it becomes wild and produces no good grapes. Sometimes in our lives, God intervenes with the cross in order to challenge and make us grow. Pruning is pivotal for one's growth. God does prune the unwanted branches of our lives through the Scriptures, through relationships and the signs of the times. Pruning whether it is physical, spiritual, relational or emotional is unpleasant but it is necessary for growth and our wellbeing. It is easier said but, as we take a look at what is happening around the world with the pandemic, it is very difficult to grasp the element of pruning. Unquestionably, we can say that this tiny virus has exposed the existing inequality and unjust distribution of resources and the plight of the disadvantaged in society, etc. How do we react to this?

The gospel invites us not to be afraid of being pruned because as long as we are seriously grounded and connected with God, there is something good. Only time will tell us what good comes out of this pandemic? The way to ground our lives in God is through our deep faith, by obedience of His commandments and cutting off the unwanted and unhealthy and harmful elements of our lives - This involves a lot of self-denial, detachment and sacrifices on our part. Let us allow God to prune our lives that we can live a fruitful, faithful and meaningful life... not merely a successful life. (Source duly acknowledged)

In his book, Living on Tiptoe, Cecil Myers reminds us of a time when a group of educators wanted to honour Albert Schweitzer... and they brought him to America. The University of Chicago planned to give him an honorary degree. When Albert Schweitzer's train arrived, the university leaders ran to greet him warmly and they told him of their joy in having him here in America. But then as they turned to leave the train station, suddenly Albert Schweitzer was gone. He just disappeared, vanished, slipped away. They looked everywhere for him. Finally, they found him. He was carrying a suitcase for an elderly woman. He saw that she was having trouble and rushed over to help her. You see, it was so much a part of his life to be a servant for others that it was as natural as breathing for him (when he got off the train), to begin immediately to look for somebody to help. That was his approach to life... and he had learned that from the Bible... he had learned that in Church... he had learned that from Jesus. Albert Schweitzer loved to help other people because he was strongly connected to Christ and His servant mentality. The university officials said later that when they saw Dr. Schweitzer helping that woman with her suitcase... they were wishing that they could find somebody they could help... somebody whose suitcase they could carry (Kayala Collections).

Let Jesus become the centre of our lives!

God's blessings!

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

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

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



WORK DONE TO GATE

Please note that electrical work will be done to the **main entrance gate** on Annangrove Rd. This is the gate leading towards Marian College. Please use the alternative gate (located next to the church) when entering the church premises from Friday, 7 May until Monday, 10 May. Thanks for your cooperation!

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

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 16th – 24th May is a global celebration of the culmination of the Special Laudato Si' 5th Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church is making on its journey to ecological conversion. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office of Social Justice & Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program are co-hosting a prayer & reflection event entitled Laudato Si' – Sowers of Hope on Friday 21st May at 5.30pm via Zoom – register here or at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

PALMS Australia is calling for people of all trades and professions to share skills to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Hear how people are partnering with local communities to find solutions together. 2 May 2021 5.00pm – 6.30pm (AEST)
<https://palms.org.au/>



Palms Australia



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. careyannemoylan@hotmail.com



Come to hear and participate in the Listening and Sharing rounds of the themes of the Plenary. The last week will continue on 4 May 9.45am and repeated on 6 May 7pm in St Madeleine Function Room. The sessions will take 90 minutes. The two themes will be "A Joyful and Hope-filled Servant Community" and

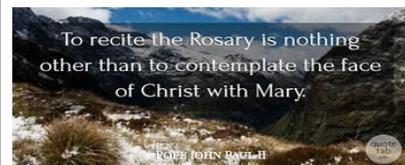
"Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform." Your responses will be recorded and shared with the council.

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/>

**WHAT DO YOU THINK
GOD IS ASKING OF US
IN AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME?**
YOUR VOICE MATTERS



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) = \$1329.40

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1215.35

Loose = \$1012.70

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$1532.00

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$3760.05

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, 2nd May

Aliyah Ayoub



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

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

Weddings: By appointment

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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FOR WE CANNOT KEEP FROM SPEAKING about what we have SEEN & HEARD

ACTS 4:20

This week Catholic Mission will share the story of Churai*, who having experienced much heartbreak in childhood, turned to the Mother and Babies Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok when her partner cast she experienced rejection as an adult, abandoned by her partner and pregnant.

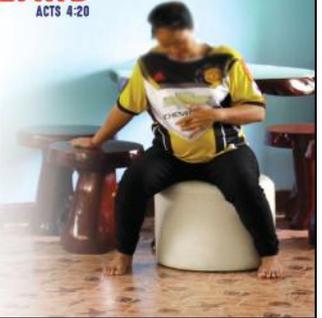
Without this program, many vulnerable mothers like Churai will have nowhere to turn when they need love and care the most.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/thailand or by texting 'GIVE' to 0488 854 436. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

*Name and images altered to protect identity



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/thailand



College Tour
Wednesday 5 May
11am - 12.30pm
Bookings online
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www.msb.nsw.edu.au

St Joseph the Worker

Feast Day:
1 May



To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor.

Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work. Pius XII emphasized this when he said, "The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work."

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

Volunteer Bookkeeper Position:

assisting poverty reduction (15 hours per week).

Palms Australia is a Catholic agency who recruits, prepares, sends and supports qualified and experienced Australians to assist communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific seeking to reduce poverty. This is a great opportunity to make a difference from within their Petersham North office, where a small wonderful and hospitable Palms Australia team will make you feel very welcome. If you know your way around accounting processes, and either looking for experience, or a meaningful retirement, Executive Director, Roger O'Halloran, would love to hear from you. roger@palms.org.au or 9560 5333 in business hours.



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

Head: Formation for Mission – Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close Monday 10 May

Head: Mission Engagement – Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close Monday 10 May

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

Community Visitors Scheme Volunteers Needed

The Community Visitors Scheme, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to provide a friendly visit to residents in local Aged Care Facilities who are lonely or isolated from their family and friends. If you feel you could spare one hour a week or a fortnight to help a person feel more valued and respected, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or email deb.woolacott@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 May 5. More information to follow or email Sonia Fingleton at the Diocese at sonia.fingleton@parracatholic.org

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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|---------|------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1/2 MAY | | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | 5:30PM SUNDAY |
| | WELCOMERS | Dianne Millington | Rosa & Tony Carlino Helen & Charlie Harb | Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy | Joseph Spina Belinda Da Ruos |
| | MINISTERS OF THE | 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 | Donated by Diane Bennett | | ALTAR LINEN | Marian Piper |
| 8/9 MAY | WELCOMERS | Trish Keating | Fran & Rocco Scardino | | Belinda Da Ruos Joseph Spina |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | Peter Balnaves | | Phyllis Hannah | Jhun Javier |
| | 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 | Donated by Teresa Capaldi Arranged by Maureen, Mari and Pauline | | ALTAR LINEN | Rosa Carlino |