



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

16th May 2021
The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1: 1–11
Eph 1: 17–23
Mark 16: 15–20

“We make a living by what we get. But we make a life by what we give.”

— Winston Churchill

Saying good-bye is one of the most painful things in life. Even if we have good hope of seeing each other again, to say good-bye reminds us of the final separation that we all must face. The pandemic has claimed millions of lives and it is heartbreaking to see the plight of the families who lost their loved ones to COVID. Millions of people are going through the pain of separation for sure. Yet, there are always memories of the beautiful moments to treasure. The feast of the Ascension invites us to face the unprecedented pandemic and its ramifications in a transformative way. As Sr. Melinda Roper, MM says, “From within the global experience of suffering and death brought about by the pandemic, the effects of the coronavirus have been good news for much of the non-human community as well as for the atmosphere, the earth and water systems. This is attributed to the radical changes in human behaviour. The way we have responded to the virus teaches us that we are very capable of changing our behaviour, not only “to stand looking unto heaven.” The Gospel today invites us to change and move on, but for motives other than fear. These motives are clearly explained in the encyclical of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*” (the Gospel of Creation).

The feast of the Ascension challenges us to move out of our comfortable boundaries that we have erected for ourselves and to see the reality of life from God’s perspective and take the good news to all creation. In the task of evangelizing, the most important tool is witnessing. St. Francis used to tell his friars who were going off on missionary journeys: “Go and preach the Gospel. Talk if necessary”. The primary field for proclaiming the gospel is ‘Family’. The family is the ‘seed-bed’ of values that form one’s life and personality. After attending a convention led by Billy Graham, a woman wrote to him, “Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?” The televangelist replied: “Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has provided you with a congregation.” So, the mission to proclaim the gospel is not measured by distance. It is measured by faith and action. It is measured by hope. It is measured by love. It is measured by the way we imitate Christ, his principles and values, in every circumstance of life. This mission is to be done in our parish/school and residence home/families.

We are called to be missionaries even onto ourselves, to our children, to our spouses, friends, families and next-door neighbours. We are called to preach, pray for and lift out our children and friends out of many modern enslaving mechanisms - such as domestic violence, abuse of power and authority, permissive culture which seems to take everything normal and even justify the wrongs... and so on. On this feast of Ascension, we are called to transcend faithlessness or lethargic attitude and recognize more and more the place of God in our lives, relationships and behaviour. We are to lift up our brothers and sisters from their discouragement and hopelessness, depression and so on. That is what Jesus means by ‘laying on of our hands’ ... (Sources duly acknowledged)

As Jesus promises, “He is with us always, until the end of the time”. As Christ lifted up, let us pray at this Mass to be lifted up in Spirit to be able to lift up others, especially the poor, the sick, the needy. May we in this changing world continue to believe and make known the Good News of Christ, in our words and actions, in our homes, families and in every situation in life.

“I have no other plan”: A beautiful old story tells of how Jesus, after his Ascension into Heaven, was surrounded by the Holy Angels who began to enquire about how his work on earth had gone. Jesus told them about his birth, life, death and resurrection, and how he accomplished the salvation of the world. One of the angels asked, “Well, now that you are back in heaven, who will continue your work on earth?” Jesus said, “While I was on earth, I gathered a group of people around me who believed in me and loved me. They will continue to spread the Gospel and carry on the work of the Church.” The angels were perplexed. “You mean Peter, who betrayed you and all the rest who ran away when you were arrested and crucified? Do you mean to tell us that you left them to carry on your work? And what will you do if this plan doesn't work?” Jesus said, “I have no other plan -- it must work.”



God’s blessings,

Fr. Vince

PARISH NEWS

NEW COVID19 RESTRICTIONS

As per the communication received from the Diocese of Parramatta, restrictions have tightened from Thursday 6 May at 5pm until Monday 17 May at 12am. Everyone is required to wear a mask indoors and no singing is permitted indoors in places of worship. The 2sqm rule is still in place. Thank you for your cooperation!

Information Session for Reconciliation and First Eucharist:

Tuesday, 18 May at either 4.30pm or 7pm.
It is a requirement that one parent (only) is to attend.

Commitment — 23 May

Parents and child are to attend one of the weekend Masses (Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 5.30pm) to commit to the Sacrament process. Preparation sessions are now to be held on Sundays, 30 May, 6 and 13 June.

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

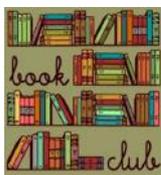


Social Justice @ St Mads

Sorry Day May 26th National Sorry Day is a special day that occurs in Australia on 26th May every year. It is a day of remembrance and commemoration held to highlight the impact of past policies of forcible removal on the Stolen Generations, their families, and their communities.

“Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Twilight Reflection Evening”:
Putting Rungs on the Ladder
Wednesday 30th June, Pennant Hills Bowling Club

Join keynote speakers Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Dr. Robbie Lloyd and Ms Ashleigh Donnelly together with Catholics from the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Diocese of Parramatta, and the Diocese of Broken Bay for a prayerful dinner event to celebrate our social justice work and reflect on the themes of this year’s Social Justice Statement “To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today.”



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.careyanmeylan@hotmail.com



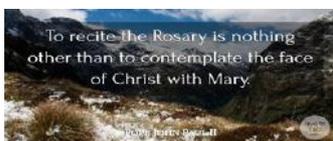
Plenary Council has suggested to have a meeting on the summary 79 page document, Instrumentum laboris, <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/instrumentum-laboris/>

Date: Thursday, 20 May

Time: 7.30pm

Where: on Zoom

Contact Careyanne Moylan on 0438791813 or careyanne-moylan@hotmail.com for more information.



Come and pray the rosary after Morning Mass on Thursdays!

Time: 9.45am;

Contact: Kay - 0429965858

Lydia Ceccato - 0400372561



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) = \$1301.70

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1157.30

Loose = \$783.05

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$1532.00

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$3472.35

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, 5 June 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, 16th May

Sabina Julia Bianca Barisic



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Elsa Piovesan, J.P. Meiring, Marlene Coble
Moussa, Frank Jeffreys, John O’Brien,
Frangiska Dimech, Carole Philomena Roberts



For the dearly departed

Norman and Chahida Hajje, Shedly and Chahide Hajje,
Betty and Mary Merhi, Hanna and Raymond Chiha,
Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo,
Domenica Scarpin, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Maria &
Giacomo Battaia, Warwick Rule, Olive Burns & Harold
Burns, Matteo De Santi, Luisa & Lucia Nieves, Paul Castelino,
Nina Giudice, Anthony Baptiste Vieira, Paul Cascun, Christy
& Breda Sherlock, John Henry Doyle, Ann Kennedy, Jim
Leyne, David & Adela Baldi, Ben & Paula Dieudonne,
Milagria Assumpta Castelino, Martin Mileto, Marlon S.
Alumios, Wilfredo Lising, Vickie Rose Camilleri

For healing of the sick

Josh Kennedy, Imelda Pellison, Justin Ryan, Jasminka
Medak, David Parslow, Maureen Burke, Murphy Family,
Kerry Rogers, Michael O’Conner, Aureen Dunn, Nancy Anne
Kazzi, Aura Krakowszky, 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

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

ON AIR

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A ridiculous story with religious significance has been making the rounds lately. It is about a pilot and three passengers, a boy scout, a priest, and an atomic scientist in a plane that develops engine trouble in mid-flight. The pilot rushes back to the passenger compartment and exclaims, "The plane is going down! We only have three parachutes, and there are four of us! I have a family waiting for me at home. I must survive!" With that, he grabs one of the parachutes and jumps out of the plane. The atomic scientist jumps to his feet at this point and declares, "I am the smartest man in the world. It would be a great tragedy if my life were snuffed out!" With that, he also grabs a parachute and exits the plane.

With an alarmed look on his face, the priest says to the Boy Scout, "My son, I have no family. I am ready to meet my Maker. You are still young with much ahead of you. You take the last parachute." At this point, the Boy Scout interrupts the priest, "Hold on, Father. Don't say any more. We're all right. The world's smartest man just jumped out of the plane wearing my knapsack!" For such smart people who do not believe in an afterlife, today's feast of Ascension seems a myth. But it is the guarantee of their resurrection and ascension to heaven for Christians. (Source: *Kayala*)



St Bernardine of Siena

Feast Day:
20 May



Most of the saints suffer great personal opposition, even persecution. Bernardine, by contrast, seems more like a human dynamo who simply took on the needs of the world.

He was the greatest preacher of his time, journeying across Italy, calming strife-torn cities, attacking the paganism he found rampant, attracting crowds of 30,000, following Saint Francis of Assisi's admonition to preach about "vice and virtue, punishment and glory."

Compared with Saint Paul by the pope, Bernardine had a keen intuition of the needs of the time, along with solid holiness and boundless energy and joy. He accomplished all this despite having a very weak and hoarse voice, miraculously improved later because of his devotion to Mary.

When he was 20, the plague was at its height in his hometown of Siena. Sometimes as many as 20 people died in one day at the hospital. Bernardine offered to run the hospital and, with the help of other young men, nursed patients there for four months. He escaped the plague, but was so exhausted that a fever confined him for several months. He spent another year caring for a beloved aunt whose parents had died when he was a child, and at her death began to fast and pray to know God's will for him.

Cont...

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



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN Australia has just launched its new Healing the Wounds of Religious Extremism in Africa Global Campaign. Tragically, Africa is the continent with the highest number of murdered priests, religious and catechists and it is also home to 234 million Catholics. As such, ACN views its task in supporting the Catholic Church there as necessary. To help support our brothers and sisters in Africa visit www.aidtochurch.org/



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter on the proposed Parental Rights Bill

Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill. The letter can be read here: <https://parracatholic.org/pastoral-letter-to-the-people-of-parramatta-on-the-parental-rights-bill/>

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 highly recommended 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

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.

Office for Worship Resources available

The Office For Worship has a range of resources available for purchase for individuals and parishes. Resources such as parent material for a child's baptism and a collation of prayers can be purchased from the Office For Worship by contacting (02) 8838 3457.

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	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	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS			Elizabeth Cauchi	Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
FLOWERS	WEDDING		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino	
22/23 MAY	WELCOMERS	Dianne Millington	Brendan Ford Carol & Terry Scott	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Lidia Ceccato Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo		Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Sandra Tabone Sally Coppini	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	WEDDING		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garratt