



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

9th May 2021
6th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Acts 10: 25–48

1 Jn 4: 7–10

John 15: 9–17

“Greater love hath no man than this...that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Through the image of Vine and branches, Jesus brings out His intimacy with us. Just as the very life of the vine flows from the vine into the branches, so does the very resurrected life of Jesus flow from him into us.

Today, Jesus speaks more personally. Today's beautiful letter from John reveals what Jesus' life is: love. "God is love." His life/love flows from him into us. It has been suggested that the word 'love' in our culture is a word in serious need of a bath. It has become so overused, misused, and abused that it needs to be power washed to renew its sparkle. This word 'love' appears in one form or another in this Sunday's readings an amazing twenty times. God's meaning of 'preciousness,' unconditional faithfulness needs to be our focus for 'love.' Our experience of human love is ideally a reproduction of it. Too often, it is a poor reflection.

Is there perhaps a short circuit in our love lives? Our personal experience includes that we are conditioned to think we need to earn love. That has been the experience of every one of us at some level: love from our teachers earned for good grades and conduct; love from our employers earned for success in the workplace; love from parents earned by some, unfortunately, for being 'good' boys and girls.

To the extent that our personal experience is earning love, it is a stretch for us to accept that God does not work like that. It was Basil Hume who said that it is easier to believe in God than to believe that God loves us. The simple truth is we cannot earn God's love. We are blessedly "stuck" with it. God has loved us first. That wonderful revelation: God is love, is who God is and what God does. We hear: "Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us." That is the heart of today's readings. Love exists not because we love, but because we are loved. God loves us whether we recognize it, whether we accept it or not. We hear in the Gospel: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you." The depth of that statement is often missed. Jesus is saying that the same, intimate relationship that he experiences with his Father is also passed on to us disciples. Living that reality of being unconditionally loved empowers us, as Jesus says, to "love one another as I love you." We are part of this magnificent circle of love with the Father, Jesus, and one another.

Jesus taught this best at the Last Supper, when he washed the feet of his disciples and gave us an example of how to be towards one another -- in service. Then he turned around and gave himself to us in Eucharist, allowing us to commune with him in word and body/blood in the communion called holy.

We need to make this reality of God's love an essential part of our ongoing dialogue with ourselves. We all have this constant dialogue in our heads and hearts. It is where we talk to ourselves, where our self-image speaks out. It is here that the conviction of God's love for us needs to prevail. We need to bask in his love. We become empowered to respond in love both to him and with one another. We convey to others the love we have in our hearts, completing the circle of love. This is God's plan. If Lenten practice was self-examination, Easter practice needs to be this life-giving, life-enabling exercise in instilling in us the ever-present conviction of God's love for us. Our challenge is to appreciate, to really accept that God loves us unconditionally -- just as we are. Today's Gospel is the very core of Jesus' last supper discourse. We all need to keep this reality always in our ongoing dialogue with ourselves, so that we may constantly listen and lovingly live. (Oblates of Francis of Sales)

"I am a father of a couple of awesome children. I love them very much and I would do anything for them. I am sure any parent would do anything to make their children happy, to protect them and to give them the best life that they could have. Today's story is probably the most touching story of love that a parent could give a child that I ever found... so far. You may need a box of tissues for this short story..."

One day an 11-year-old girl asked her daddy, "What are you going to get me for my 15th birthday?"

Her father replied, "Please wait, there is much time left."

When the girl was 14 years old, she fainted and was rushed to the hospital. The doctor came out and told her dad that she had a bad heart and that she was probably going to die.

When she was lying in the hospital bed, she said softly, "Daddy... have they told you that I am going to die?" The father replied; "No, you are going to live" as he left her room weeping.

She asked, "How can you be so sure, daddy?" He turned around from the door and said "because... I know. "A short time later she turned 15. After she was released from the hospital and recovering, she came home to find a letter on her bed which read... "My dearest daughter, if you are reading this letter, it means that everything went well, just as I told you it would. A little while ago you asked me what I was going to give you for your 15th birthday. I didn't know then, but my present to you was MY HEART."

Her father had donated his heart!



God's blessings,

Fr. Vince

Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, a community of faith and service, strives to be a witness for Christ's love far and wide, reflecting the humility and wisdom of St Madeleine, the Patroness of the parish.

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 10 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!

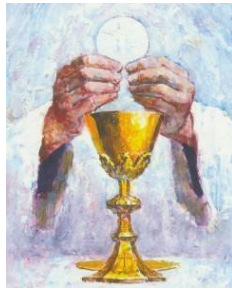
Information Session for Reconciliation and First Eucharist:

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



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. Kindly note that you can only turn left upon exiting. Thanks for your cooperation!

Social Justice @ St Mads

Pope Francis has launched a month long campaign of praying the rosary for an end to the pandemic. On Sunday 16 May 2021 at 6:00pm, a Rosary will be prayed at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney and be livestreamed to the rest of the world.

The intention for this rosary is for all those who are suffering from violence and human trafficking an opportunity for you to learn more and take action on modern slavery and human trafficking.

Earthkin: Next Gathering is Saturday 15, 10am-11.30am. The theme is: Bees and other Pollinators-the Building Block of entire ecosystems. Contact valda.rsm@gmail.com for Zoom details.

Hills Yarning is coming up Tuesday 11th May email Ann@stjosephscentre.org.au for more details. Sr Susan Connelly Susan.Connelly@sojs.org.au is organising a Drop the Prosecutions and Pop-up protest on Monday 17th May at the Opera House.



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



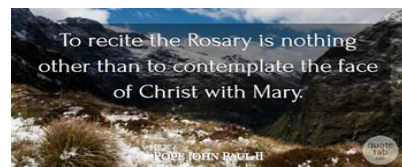
Plenary Council has suggested to have a meeting on the summary 79 page document, Instrumentum laboris, <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/instrumentum-laboris/>

Date: Thursday, 20 May

Time: 7.30pm

Where: on Zoom

Contact Careyanne Moylan on 0438791813 or careyanmoylan@hotmail.com for more information.



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) = \$1650.00

2nd Collection (for Parish)

Envelopes = \$1271.00

Loose = \$1685.85

Credit cards/Direct Debit avg weekly = \$1532.00

TOTAL OF 2ND COLLECTION = \$4488.85

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, 9th May
Vanenzia Campanella



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Frank Jeffreys, John O'Brien, Frangiska Dimech, Carole Philomena Roberts



For the dearly departed

Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Guilia & 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 & Adelaide 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, Giuseppe Grasso, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Faye Willing, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Gorac, 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

Welcomers 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



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

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



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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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/

Our Lady of Fatima

Feast Day:
13 May



Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children—Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos—received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/our-lady-of-fatima>

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

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

'The Well' offers new refreshment in 2021

'The Well' is back in 2021. The team are hoping to drip-feed new and relatable content every 72 hours that supports your ministry with family, friends, students, colleagues and strangers. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au

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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8/9 MAY		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Trish Keating	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Adriana Kennedy	Belinda Da Ruos Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves		Phillys Hannah	Jhun Javier
	READERS		Belinda Da Ruos Tony Hooper	David Hall-O'Dwyer	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	
15/16 MAY	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	Lisa Jacobs	Joan Sattler	Anucia & Team	
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS	WEDDING		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino