



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

29th August 2021

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A hypocrite is a person who – but who isn't? – Don Marquis

Frequent washing of hands or sanitizing yourself, wearing of masks, physical distancing, are a few 'rites' we have to follow meticulously during this pandemic. These practices are to be observed in view of protecting others and oneself. Keeping oneself safe and thereby others safe is the clarion call for every one of us in this critical and turbulent time. How often do parents admonish or even yell at their children to wash their hands! Training a child, from an early age, in observing hygiene has become important.

In today's gospel, the Pharisees and the scribes remark that the disciples of Jesus don't wash their hands as others do, before eating. Scandal! But strange enough, Jesus, instead of responding positively to this *apparent* hygienic concern, scolds the Pharisees and the scribes to the point of calling them hypocrites! Is Jesus against cleanliness or hygiene as he is against hypocrisy? Does Jesus downplay these practices? We need to understand the gospel in its proper context.

A religious meaning was attached to the ritual of washing of hands. A meal was considered sacred as it comes from God's bounty, and sitting down to share a meal was to sit in God's presence. Thus, the Jews want to purify themselves before they can sit in God's presence. Isn't that simply beautiful! Therefore, we understand that it's not necessarily a matter of washing with soap, or something similar in order to get rid of germs, rather, it's a ritual cleansing signifying religious purity. Unfortunately, such beautiful religious practices gets abused and becomes fixated on external show, thus, neglecting its interior, profound meaning. That, is the concern of Jesus!

Jesus speaks of hypocrisy. What is it? It's having a double face, especially when someone is living in a manner contrary to the religious piety they parade exteriorly. While the Pharisees and the scribes are concerned about a certain way of washing of hands as a way of presenting themselves pure at meals, yet, their day-to-day relationships with others are tainted with judgement, scorn, hatred and various forms of injustice. They are so devoted to the purity of washing up to the elbow, yet, they care little about the impurity that accumulates in their hearts.

Besides, having fulfilled such ritual cleansing, Pharisees think of themselves so highly, as clean people, and look down upon others, especially non-Jews, as dirty dogs whom they avoid interacting with. Such a religious attitude does not imitate the image of God that Jesus reveals; a Father who loves all people as his children. No one is discriminated against. That's why such a vain and divisive view of holiness becomes suspicious, and that's the hypocritical impurity that Jesus denounces.

Through such harsh words Jesus is trying to awaken the Pharisees, and us too, so that we can return to the essentials of our religious practice; calling us to practice our religion with sincerity in paying attention especially to the values of our faith. Rites are important, and indeed they have their place, yet, we should be careful so as not to settle just on some marginal things. The first reading from Deuteronomy is a timely reminder to us about the essentials of our identity as God's people.

It is possible that we may go through all that religious piety in a mechanical way that unfortunately improves nothing in us. In that way, I would be washing my hands up to the elbow while my heart is full of debris. That's why James too (second reading), adds his voice in spelling out what a genuine religious practice is— more than just impressive religious practices that we parade, it's important to take care of the quality of our relationships especially with the little ones of our society.

Each one should ask oneself, what are the things that are distancing me from God and from others? Am I possibly living a double life? Even though the Gospel comes in a cover of harsh words, this is nevertheless good news for us. This word comes to us today, not to condemn us, but to help us get back onto the rails of genuine followers of Jesus.

So, as you can see, Jesus has no qualms with observing hygiene; he's only challenging us to broaden our horizons. He's saying, hey, take care! There are other microbes around, perhaps even more serious...such as anything in your life that poisons your relationship with God and with those around you. Hence, a jet of water on your heart may be necessary. (Excerpted & Edited Fr. Chama)

God's blessings,
Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new set of Planned Giving envelopes for the year (Sep 2021 - Aug 2022) are now available for pick up from the parish office (Tue-Fri, 10am-4pm) Your continued generosity in supporting our parish is greatly appreciated.

St Mads Care Group

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



FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR - LIVE STREAMED

Come and encounter the Lord in an hour of prayer and adoration
Friday, 03 September 2021 at 7pm

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses-11337783718546/>



Sunday Gospel

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

Social Justice @ St Mads

With Micah our Social Justice group has signed a letter to Alex Hawke to seek support for Afghanistan. We continue to pray for Afghanistan, Myanmar and Haiti.

This weekend is Social Justice Sunday please view the Bishops video

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

You are invited to join with our Green Heart retreat

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUvcu6urT4uHNNlwck_kIAU-8ldfPh1yb4u

I will be sharing on the Youth Panel at Catholic Mission Conference Sept 1-4

<https://2021.mohmv.com.au/>

'Every moment and encounter is an opportunity to be amazed by beauty, enraptured by

Let's
reflect,
renew
and
rejoice

Spring Day of Prayer

Pray together on Zoom and at home. Pack provided.
9.30 till 1pm, Saturday 4 September.

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwrcu2rqDwiGt3XnBrQ7rbTO2Eh5WJlOulI>

For further information contact careyannemoylan@hotmail.com

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" St. Catherine of Siena



ZOOM ROSARY CHANGE, EXTRA ONE NIGHT

"The family that prays together stays together"

We invite parishioners and others to join us to pray the Rosary asking our loving Mother Mary to intercede for the suffering humanity due to the pandemic. Join us on Zoom on **Mondays at 7 pm Meeting ID: 840 2707 2956** and **Thursdays at 9:45am Meeting ID: 884 0505 6508** If you have any special intention in offering the rosary contact Lidia 0400372561 or Kay 0429965858



2021 WINTER APPEAL

Every day at Vinnies we see that ordinary people are able to make an extraordinary difference in their local communities. We are inspired by the joy of the gospels and our catholic social teachings to do things that matter. As we enter this winter in the shadow of coronavirus, your commitment to helping those experiencing disadvantage, poverty, loneliness and homelessness is still very much needed and appreciated.

If you are able to make a contribution to the Vinnies Winter Appeal please do so by visiting www.vinnies.org.au calling 131122 or using the envelope system available inside the church tower during mass times. Envelopes can be left inside the tower box to the left of the tower or during special collections during mass. We greatly appreciate your support. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Ensure your details are enclosed or noted on envelope with donation.

Our Parish Winter Appeal will be held once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, those who love to contribute may do so by dropping in your contributions at our Parish Office

Caring for the health and wellbeing of our retired priests

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal, traditionally held on Father's Day, raises much needed funds for the Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work supporting retired clergy and those in ill health. Due to the current lockdown, the Appeal will be held via mail and online. Your thoughtful donation will mean so much to those who have put the care of others before themselves. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.

Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you so much for your ongoing support, which has been very vital to keep our Parish going strong. We continue to pay off the loan towards the construction of our beautiful church. May we ask of your generous contribution towards the upkeep of the parish with its various incidental expenses. You can drop off the envelopes at the parish office or you can do it electronically to:-

Account Name : Kenthurst Catholic Church
BSB : 067950

Account Number : 00000388

Please, include your name and envelope number in the reference description or simply state 'donation' if you have not joined the Planned Giving Program. You can specify if it is for the first collection (to the diocese for the maintenance of clergy) or second collection (for the upkeep of the parish). Your good will and support are very much appreciated.

BAPTISM PREPARATIONS

Following the extension of the current Covid lockdown, the preparation session scheduled for 4th Sept is suspended. The next session will be scheduled subject to the covid restrictions. Kindly keep an eye for the announcements.



Suspension of Masses and Sacraments

All public Masses & Sacraments are temporarily suspended due to the current lockdown. Join us for live streamed mass at 9am (Tues-Fri) and 10am on Sunday. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleines-Masses-11337783718546/>

Alpha Program

Get ready. **Alpha** is starting again on Zoom from **21 Sept 2021, at 7pm**. It includes a short, day retreat; still to be decided whether it can be in person or not.

Wanted: People to pray for the success of Alpha, before and during the sessions. Call Suzanne on 0410936108 or Careyanne on 0438791813 to let us know.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For recently deceased

Barry McBride, Doris Jacobs, Kevin Cook, Joseph Galea, India, Fr Peter Caruana, Fran Sanders, Edith Irwin, Jim Shipley, Philomena Beresford, Maureen McCartney, Lenard Gauci, Romano Bandiera.



For the dearly departed

Marine & Mansour Nasri, Jack, Vincenzo Tonitto, Matty Maguire, Angelina Pardo-Adan, Mulvihill and Culligan family, Dermot Murphy, Emmanuel Galea, Ivan Ceccato, Helena Culligan, Laurie Riley, Tm Mulvihill, Maria Ceroli, Costantino Giudice, Sr Rona Collins.

For healing of the sick

John Burford, Margaret Doyle, Josh Kennedy, David Parslow, Maureen Burke, Imelda Pellison, Jasminka Medak, Murphy Family, Kerry Rogers, Michael O'Conner, Aureen Dunn, Aura Krakowszky, Nancy Anne Kazzi, Keith Dawson, Joe Fuda, 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, Pat D, Anis Nicholas, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Dorothy Green, 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, Patrick, Faye Willing, 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:

Sharyll Netto
Susie Lee

Sacramental Coordinator

Sandra De Nardi

St Madeleine's Primary School

Phone: 9654 6751

Principal: Mrs Barbara Young

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/>



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Madeleine-Sophie-Barat-Parish>

Kindergarten 2022

We are still accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2022 and welcome your application. Please check the school's website www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au to download the application and forward it to the school office as soon as possible.



Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS)

We pray for those affected by the earthquake in Haiti and for the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS) and Sydney Alliance have put forward the following four humanitarian steps that the Australian Federal Government could take immediately:

- Introduce a substantive intake of refugees and forcibly displaced people from Afghanistan, in addition to Australia's annual humanitarian program, noting Canada's recent commitment to take 20,000 refugees.

- Grant permanent protection to refugees from Afghanistan who are currently in Australia on temporary visas

- Provide people seeking asylum from Afghanistan who are currently in Australia with fair and consistent pathways to seek permanent protection, including by permitting people whose claims have been rejected to submit new applications for protection

- Enable priority access to family reunion to refugees from Afghanistan in Australia.

For more details see: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/news/solidarity-with-afghanistan-how-you-can-help/>



Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:
Emergency Aid for Haiti.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International) has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti and immediately approved an emergency aid package of half a million Euros (AUD \$800,000) for the Haitian people. In response to this, ACN Australia has set up an emergency appeal to provide help for our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are going through a very hard time. To donate visit www.aidtochurch.org/haiti

Donate to Caritas' Emergency Response Appeal for Haiti



Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. Donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal by visiting www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413

Saint of the Day : Saint Gregory the Great Feast Day: 3 September

Gregory was the prefect of Rome before he was 30.

After five years in office he resigned, founded six monasteries on his Sicilian estate, and became a Benedictine monk in his own home at Rome.

Ordained a priest, Gregory became one of the pope's seven deacons, and also served six years in the East as papal representative in Constantinople. He was recalled to become abbot, but at the age of 50 was elected pope by the clergy and people of Rome.

Gregory was direct and firm. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and the victims of plague and famine. He was very concerned about the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his own monastery. He is known for his reform of the liturgy, and for strengthening respect for doctrine.

Whether he was largely responsible for the revision of "Gregorian" chant is disputed. Gregory lived in a time of perpetual strife with invading Lombards and difficult relations with the East. When Rome itself was under attack, he interviewed the Lombard king. His book, *Pastoral Care*, on the duties and qualities of a bishop, was read for centuries after his death. He described bishops mainly as physicians whose main duties were preaching and the enforcement of discipline. In his own down-to-earth preaching - *con't*

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



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Due to stay-at-home orders from the NSW Government, all church buildings, adoration chapels and other buildings used for prayer and religious services are closed. Public Masses have ceased. Many parishes around the Diocese are celebrating Masses online. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

'The Well' offers spiritual nourishment during lockdown

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement during lockdown? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au

Parish Online Ministry during COVID

There are an extraordinary amount of initiatives taking place online across the Diocese in a number of parishes. These include games nights, trivia competitions, formation, scripture studies and wellbeing check-ins. If your community is willing to share these opportunities beyond your own Parish, the Mission Enhancement Team (MET Parramatta) would love to hear from you and help connect others who are struggling at this time. Email met@parracatholic.org

World Day of Prayer for Creation & Season of Creation

Pope Francis has designated September 1 as the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. Join Pope Francis and Christians around the globe in praying for and taking action for our common home on 1 September and during the Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct). For more information, resources, and activities in the Diocese of Parramatta, visit parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation

UPDATE : Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

During lockdown, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and House of Welcome (HoW) cannot receive physical food and toiletry donations. However, many refugee families are still relying on their foodbanks or the provision of food vouchers. In this difficult time, please support JRS and HoW with a cash donation if you can. Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

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.

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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
29 AUGUST	WELCOMERS				
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR				
	READERS			Sandra Tabone Phyllis Hannah	
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS			CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	FLOWERS			ALTAR LINEN	
05 SEPTEMBER	WELCOMERS				
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR				
	READERS			Jacqui Nisbet Helen Harb	
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS			CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	FLOWERS			ALTAR LINEN	