



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

05 September 2021
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 35:4-7
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

When you take time with God and listen to His voice, He renews your strength and enables you to handle life. - Joyce Meyer

"Father's Day was near when I brought my three-year-old son, Tyler, to the card store. Inside, I showed him the cards for dads and told him to pick one. When I looked back, Tyler was picking up one card after another, opening them up and quickly shoving them back into slots, every which way. "Tyler, what are you doing?" I asked. "Haven't you found a nice card for Daddy yet?" "No," he replied. "I'm looking for one with money in it." - Reader's Digest.



Father's Day wishes and prayers to all dads in our parish community! Though we are in a hard lockdown, I hope that you can make this day special and memorable! We remember the dads in the nursing homes, aged care facilities and hospitals who would miss their children on this special day. Our prayers and love will truly reach them despite our inability to be with them in person. With gratitude and love we offer our sincere prayers for the dads who have gone back to the creator God.

Most of us are quite familiar with the commercials of 'Amplifon' and other hearing aids conveying the message that people need not be unnecessarily worried about hearing impairments. Jokingly it is said that 'blessed are the deaf because they have peace and quiet'. Nonetheless, no one wants to be deaf even with age! We thank God for His gifts through advanced scientific innovation!

Today's gospel is about Jesus healing a deaf person. The way Jesus treated him is quite lovely and eye-opening! He takes the deaf man away from the crowd so as not to embarrass him in the presence of the people gathered around him. Jesus's sensitivity to the deaf person's inner feelings is incredible. Respecting those feelings, He touches his ears, and he puts his finger on his mouth and sure enough that person realizes that Jesus is going to heal him. When the man is healed, he sends him off to the Temple of Jerusalem, where he could give thanks for his healing.

The gospel writer Mark, by presenting this story talks about people who don't listen, who don't hear. There is a difference between a deaf person who cannot hear and a person who does not listen and doesn't hear. When Mark talks about the man born who was deaf and dumb, he is talking about us. He is saying, "I'm not interested in the sounds you hear with your ears and what you say with your mouth. I'm interested in whether the sounds you hear in your ears are listened to by your heart and whether the words of praise that come forth from you always come from your heart." And this is why, when we baptise a little child – after the baptism and after the lighted candle, the Light of the World, is given to the godparents, and after this – the priest picks up the child and he touches the ears and he touches the mouth and he says the prayer, "My little child, may God soon open your ears to hear His word and open your mouth that you might give Him praise." And that means for always! We are all blind. We are all deaf. We are all in need of God's healing. But the healing that God wants for us is not to solve our eye problems or our ear problems. He wants us to solve the problems of the heart. (Fr Hanley's sharing) As a big family of God, we should be listening to each other, not with our ears, but with our hearts. And we should be praising each other, not with our mouth, but with our hearts as well. Are we able to see, hear and listen to our own family members and accept each other and grow in our relationships? How often are we deaf and dumb to the plight of our own family members? Let us allow Jesus to touch our hearts that we are open to love and serve each other.



In the light of the second reading from James 2: 1-5, we are called upon to see and hear the social injustice on the basis of 'social stratification' directing unfair treatment of certain individuals or social groups in our contemporary and so called 'civilized world'. The gospel challenges us to broaden our perspective on the wellbeing of the entire humanity in the given times and cooperate with God by being a blessing for each other in every way possible.

There is a clarion call to address climate change today that the future generation is gifted with a conducive world to live in. In the light of this, today's gospel challenges us to let Jesus open our eyes to see what's happening, and our ears to listen to what scientists are telling us. It also calls us to take care of creation—not only for our own good, but also for the glory of God our creator.

In the face of new variants of the virus, death, sickness, lockdowns, let us not be frightened and agitated. God calls us to be strong and unafraid as we face reality and then act (First reading). In great faith we take to heart what God asks of us.

Let us pray that "we may speak with our heart, hear with our heart and love with our heart and thereby understand that God is with us".

God's blessings

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS

COPING WITH LOCKDOWN IS A MIXED BAG

During my recent contact with one of the families in our Parish, I asked them to share their challenges and coping mechanisms in this hard lockdown and this is what the mother of the family, Jacqueline Nisbet had to share:



Coping with lockdown has been a mixed bag!

There are challenges, particularly juggling working from home and doing home schooling.

Our older kids (high school age) are pretty autonomous, with only technical issues needing sorting out.

Our younger children (Prep and Yr 1) need a lot more help and supervision.

Juggling that with managing a Tax and Accounting practice, and running a wholesale business has been difficult.

Another challenge is the lack of personal space and time on your own. George and I have found little to no time to ourselves.

We also miss our friends and family! With an overseas family, it's been almost 2 years since we've seen grandparents, and 2 months since we've seen cousins and friends. Zoom calls are having to suffice for the time being.

Last challenge is all the good food we are eating!!! Haha

On the positive side, we have found the quality of family time and connecting with our children has been particularly special. We have lunch together each day, and pray together every day. We know what's going on and our kids seem happy and close to each other (for the most part!).

Our relationship with God is strong, with us teaching the little kids their prayers and religion work each day. And with our family talking about what we are grateful for each day - there have been some interesting ones, like the precious 4 baby plovers down the road!

We have filled the time usually taken travelling on a train, or rushing around to sports practice, with a family walk/cycle every evening from 5-6pm, and weekend bushwalks. The pets are the biggest winners with their loved ones around them all day!

We are excited about the food we are eating, with themed dinners, Kids night cooking, and Friday night take-out (hence the weight gain!! Haha).



And George and I are thoroughly enjoying our wine!!

So... a mixed bag!

It would be nice to come out of lockdown with more of a balance between a crazy life and a locked-down one.

For now, we're just rolling with it.

I would be very appreciative if parishioners would share their experience which might be a source of inspiration for others. I invite you to contact the parish office if you would like to share your innovative coping strategies.

Fr. Vince

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



Social Justice @ St Mads

This week the Season of Creation begins. The theme is "A home for all, Renewing the Oikos of God" Parramatta Diocese has developed some online activities and resources for prayer and action at: parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation. Pray the [Laudato Si' mantra](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLC0GYQdLXk) from Jill Shirvington. Marian College is undertaking the CHEN Platypus In Situ program and it was great to see the platypus project on the ABC news last week. www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLC0GYQdLXk. Racism has been in our media recently, Sydney Alliance shared a great initiative www.ourrace.com.au/homepage



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 : **0000388**

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.

Collections during lockdown as on 01 Sept 2021

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$575.00
2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$3,487.69

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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/>

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.



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 Biford 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

Welcomers 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>

Please support our Priests' dignified retirement and those clergy who are in ill-health

This Father's Day, please spare a thought for our humble priests who have cared for our faith community's spiritual nourishment and wellbeing for all their lives.

With your generosity, the Clergy Support Foundation helps our priests with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement.

Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.



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 your able to make a contribution to the Vinnies Winter Appeal please do so by visiting www.vinnies.org.au, calling 131812 or using the envelope system available inside the church foyer during mass times. Envelopes can be left inside the foyer to the left of the foyer 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

PARISH ZOOM ACTIVITIES

Activity	Date	Time	Zoom Meeting ID / Contact Info
Sunday Gospel	Every Tues	10:30am	Contact Careyane on careyannemoylan@hotmail.com or 0438 791 813 
Rosary	Every Mon Every Thurs	7:00pm 9:45am	Meeting ID: 840 2707 2956 Meeting ID: 884 0505 6508 
Alpha Program	21 Sept 21	7:00pm	Contact : Suzanne 0410936108 or Careyane on 0438 791 813 
Book Club	28 Sept 21	7.30pm	Get your free copy at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco-20150524_ enciclica-laudato-si.html Contact Careyane on 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com 

Saint of the Day : Saint Teresa of Calcutta
Feast Day: 5 September

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the tiny woman recognized throughout the world for her work among the poorest of the poor, was beatified October 19, 2003. Among those present were hundreds of Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded in 1950, as a diocesan religious community. Today the congregation also includes contemplative sisters and brothers, and an order of priests. Born to Albanian parents in what is now Skopje, Macedonia, Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu was the youngest of the three children who survived. For a time, the family lived comfortably, and her father's construction business thrived. But life changed overnight following his unexpected death. During her years in public school, Agnes participated in a Catholic sodality and showed a strong interest in the foreign missions. At age 18, she entered the Loreto Sisters of Dublin. It was 1928 when she said goodbye to her mother for the final time and made her way to a new land and a new life. The following year she was sent to the Loreto novitiate in Darjeeling, India. There she chose the name Teresa and prepared for a life of service. She was assigned to a high school for girls in Calcutta, where she taught history and geography to the daughters of the wealthy. But she could not escape the realities around her—the poverty, the suffering, the overwhelming numbers of destitute people. In 1946, while riding a train to Darjeeling to make a retreat, Sister Teresa heard - *con't*-Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-teresa-of-calcutta>



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.



A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Education of Catechists
ACN supports the formation and training of catechists so that where there are no priests or sisters, catechists are trained and sent forth to nurture the Christian community. With the help of our benefactors, ACN supported the formation of 18,389 catechists and lay leaders in 2020. Can you help provide support and formation to catechists to help spread the Faith? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/catechists.



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

ONLINE GATHERING

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ROSTERS	05 SEPTEMBER 2020	12 SEPTEMBER 2020
READERS	Jacqui Nisbet Jacinta Harb	Nigel Saunders Adriana Kennedy

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country on which we worship



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

Diocese of Parramatta launches Plenary Council resource website

A new website provides resources for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta to stay involved in the Plenary Council, which is exploring what the future of our Church should look like. The first assembly starts in October, so visit parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/ to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more.

Sign the petition to welcome 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan

In a sign of unity, major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to urge the Prime Minister to provide a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families. For more information and to sign the petition go to www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta

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