



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

20th February 2022
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
I Cor 15:45-49
Lk 6:27-38

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like to congratulate our children receiving the Eucharist (Holy Communion) for the first time this Sunday, next Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to their parents and to Sandra De Nardi, Sacramental Coordinator and the Sacramental team who journeyed with them in their preparation for this ever-memorable event. Boys and girls, may God, who brought you to this day continue to direct your life in His perfect way of love and may the love of Jesus shine in your heart now and forever. May I request our parishioners to keep them in their prayers so that they may ever grow in the love of Christ and be a part of our parish community in the years to follow.

Today's Gospel message is a continuous challenge to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Luke 6:27, Jesus says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

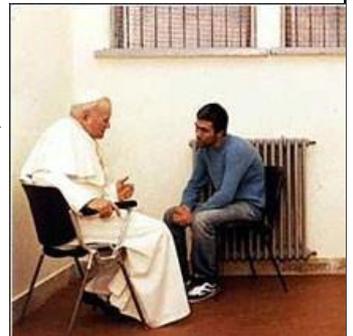
In April of 2003, I had an opportunity to be at Lourdes, France to see the place where Our Blessed Lady appeared asking prayers and penance for the conversion of 'poor sinners'.

While I was there, the annual military pilgrimage took place. There were military personnel from many European countries, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Russia and other countries gathered together to pray and to get acquainted with one another. I discovered that the first military pilgrimage was officially begun in 1958 after several years of spontaneous military gatherings at Lourdes.



It started with the concrete desire to bring two enemies together after World War II -- France and Germany. Both of these countries had experienced the scars of hatred and destruction during the war. The need to heal, to forgive, and to be reconciled was openly expressed in a powerful way. So, these small concrete expressions of mutual forgiveness grew and developed, with other warring nations' military personnel coming together at Lourdes over the years. They sought to forgive and to be forgiven. As the Gospel today reminds us, "Love your enemies and do good to them."

On May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Saint Pope John Paul II was shot and wounded by an assassin named Mehmet Ali Agha. The Pope was struck four times, and he had a severe loss of blood. However, following the shooting, Pope John Paul II asked the people "to pray for my brother, Agha, whom I have sincerely forgiven." Then, in 1983, the Pope personally visited his would-be-assassin in prison and offered Agha his personal forgiveness. Over the years, the Pope kept in touch with Agha's family and even met his mother. The Pope concretely expressed the Mercy of God in his ongoing acts of forgiveness. The Pope also asked that Agha would not be sentenced to death, but only be given a life sentence according to Italian law. Later, in the Jubilee Year of 2000, the Pope asked the Italian president to pardon Agha.



The year before the attempted assassination, the Pope had written an encyclical on The Mercy of God. The Pope wrote that forgiveness does not do away with justice. Nowhere in the Gospel does mercy mean indulgence toward evil, toward scandal, toward injury or insult. Reparation for evil and scandal, compensation for injury, and satisfaction for insult are the conditions for forgiveness.

However, echoing the words of today's Gospel, he wrote, "Jesus challenged the distortion of justice in his time expressed in the words: 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth' (Mt. 5:38). Today's forms of justice continue to be modelled on it. Our experience shows that justice alone is not enough, that it can even lead to destruction of self, if that deeper power, which is love, is not allowed to shape human life."

Yes, mercy and forgiveness begin with concrete, individual acts which reshape our society. Today we remember that we are called to seek mercy even for our enemies or adversaries. (Fr. James Najmowski, MM. Source: Maryknoll)

A boy was born to a couple after eleven years of marriage. They were a loving couple and the boy was the apple of their eyes. When the boy was around two years old, one morning the husband saw a medicine bottle open. He was late for work so he asked the wife to cap the bottle and keep it in the cupboard. The mother, preoccupied in the kitchen, totally forgot the matter.

The boy playfully went to the medicine bottle and, fascinated with its colour, drank it all. It happened to be a poisonous medicine meant for adults in small doses. When the child showed signs of poisoning the mother took him to the hospital, where he died.

The mother was stunned. She was terrified of facing her husband. When the distraught father came to the hospital and saw the dead child, he looked at his wife and uttered just four words. I love you Darling.

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong" - Mahatma Gandhi

God's blessings

Fr. Vince

“To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness.”

Robert Muller

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



PRAYER AT ST MADS

The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30 am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
Prayer Group	Wednesday after morning Mass at 10am in the St Madeleine centre
St Mad's Book Club	To register contact Careyanne on careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
RCIA	For enquires contact Fr Vincent or Parish Office
St Mads Care Group	Provide parish support and care such as meals, transport, shopping and assistance to members of our parish Contact Bernadette 0418 248 256
St Mads Rosary	Thursday after morning Mass & Monday night at 7pm Via Zoom Zoom meeting ID 840 2707 2956 Contact Lydia Ceccato & Kay Brook
Baptism Preparation	First Saturday of the month in the St Madeleine centre: Ring/email Parish office for booking 9654 2260 (Tues-Fri 10am-4 pm or stmads@yahoo.com.au)



COVID 19 UPDATE Based on the recent changes with the covid restrictions made by the NSW government, the diocese of Parramatta has stipulated that Check-in using the NSW QR Code and record keeping for attendees is no longer required for places of worship. Both the choir and congregation are able to sing at religious services at our churches from Friday 25 February 2022. As of **Friday, 25 February 2022**, masks will no longer be mandatory for places of worship. However, **masks are still strongly encouraged** where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others. Let us be responsible for the wellbeing of one another! Fr.Vince

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S Remember we have our Laudato Si' Lenten group starting March 6th, contact the parish office to register. Our Laudato Si' tip this week is "Every night unplug unused electrical appliances. Save electrical energy by doing this and also by using rationally all the technological devices that we have." Please continue to leave breakfast items for our Vinnies support at Emerton. Last week our team dropped off some bread items to The Rock Café in Penrith. www.trcc.com.au/ Our Social Justice group also signed the Micah letter www.micahaustralia.org/ that is being written to our local member Alex Hawke, speaking with the [Afghan Diaspora](#) and [Refugee Council of Australia](#) seeking better support. The Project Compassion theme this year is For All Future Generations. We will have stories from across the world each week in Lent. We are Hope in Action, Working together for justice and dignity. Walking together in hope. Building together a better future for all. www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/

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. 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

Parishioners wishing to donate or pledge their giving via direct debit, please pick up the form at the church and submit to Fr Vincent after completion

Thank you for your generosity!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,301.20
 2nd Collection (for Parish)
 Loose = \$1,072.45
 Envelopes = \$961.40

Congratulations to Bethaney & Luke on their wedding

Congratulations to the newly baptised Reuben Jabre and Logan Aquilina

Congratulations to all children celebrating their First Holy Communion this weekend

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the dearly departed

Mary Fatima Ovens, Domenico Franceschina, Alegria Canseco-Ricafrente, Sr Mary Eufemia Buhagiar, Patrick Joseph Bradley, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Maria & Giacomo Battaia, Olive Burns, Theresa Alphones, Joe Galea, Norah Theresa Joy, Marian Adorni, Neville Hannah, Engracia Corpuz, Sheila Lopez, Michele Vaccarella, Shaju Xavier, Louis Sammut, Josephine Cortis, John Spencer, Antonio and Rosa Cicino, Barbara Wood, Karen Draddy, Elizabeth Graby, Thea Crowe, James D'arcy, Keith Okey, Marguerita Rigby, Michele Vaccarella, Pablito Corpuz, Felician Sabellano

Please pray for the sick

Zofia Kingsley, Kenneth McLachlan



PLEASE RETURN ALL PALMS FROM LAST YEAR'S PALM SUNDAY



THESE WILL BE BURNT FOR USE ON ASH WEDNESDAY

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Confirmation

Parent Information Evening

Tuesday, 8 March 2022 4.30pm or 7pm

Applications available online.

All documents to be handed in to the parish office no later than

Friday, 4 March 2022

Contact: Sandra De Nardi 0410 587 735
stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

ST MADELEINE'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY We are very excited to announce that our Parish is re-commencing face to face Children's Liturgy at the beginning of **Term 2**. After what seems like the longest time we are all very keen to welcome back the children from 3 years to Year 6. In the meantime, there will be the 'My Faith Booklets' available at the back of the church. Anyone wishing to take one for their child is more than welcome. For school age children we use these booklets during liturgy as they reflect the mass readings at an age appropriate level. For the younger children we have storybooks and age appropriate worksheets. Their liturgy will be held in the **St Madeleine's Centre at 10.00 am on a Sunday** to coincide with the 10 am family Mass. Children attend Liturgy for about twenty minutes or so until the end of the homily. They will then return to their families in the church for the remainder of the Mass.

We look forward to welcoming you back!

Deb Rankin Children's Liturgy Co-ordinator

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 Shop: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Carl Mathias

Welcomer Coordinator:

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

Deacon

Michael Tan

Parish Secretaries

Sandra De Nardi

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: Dr Gavin Hays

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

St Peter Damian Feast Day 21 February



Maybe because he was orphaned and had been treated shabbily by one of his brothers, Peter Damian was very good to the poor. It was the ordinary thing for him to have a poor person or two with him at table and he liked to minister personally to their needs. Peter escaped poverty and the neglect of his own brother when his other brother, who was archpriest of Ravenna, took him under his wing. His brother sent him to good schools and Peter became a professor. Soon, he decided to leave his teaching and give himself completely to prayer with the Benedictines of the reform of Saint Romuald at Fonte Avellana. Finally, Pope Stephen IX made Peter the cardinal-bishop of Ostia. He worked hard to wipe out simony—the buying of church offices—and encouraged his priests to observe celibacy and urged even the diocesan clergy to live together and maintain scheduled prayer and religious observance. He wished to restore primitive discipline among religious and priests, warning against needless travel, violations of poverty, and too comfortable living. With the monks gathered around him saying the Divine Office, he died on February 22, 1072. In 1828, he was declared a Doctor of the Church.

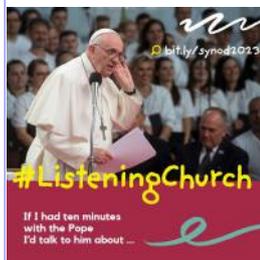
Source: www.franciscanmedia.org

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022 England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Date: Friday, 4 March at 10am
Location: St Benedict's Catholic Church,
2 Fagan Rd, Arcadia
Contact: St Mads: Careyanne Moylan 0438 791 813
Arcadia: Pauline Honor 0490 025 759

SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2021 –2023 RESPONSE



Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to participate in the Synod of Bishops by responding to his call for a 'Listening Church'. The first step for Australian Catholics is participation in a discernment process, whereby they consider their thoughts individually or in groups of family and friends. There are resources to help them do this at the website we have created for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta which can be found at the link bit.ly/synod2023. Parishioners can then upload their responses onto a [portal operated by the ACBC](#). Responses will be accepted up until **27 February 2022**.



Positions Vacant

Project Officer – Parramatta Young Christian Workers

Graduate Accountant – Diocesan Development Fund, Diocese of Parramatta

More details: parracatholic.org/employment

Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are opening their doors for private prayer, Reconciliation and for the celebration of Mass and sacraments such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact your local parish to check Mass and liturgy times and the COVID-Safe arrangements in place. Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are still available on the Diocesan website <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

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. Beyond the First Assembly of the Plenary Council, visit parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/ to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more as we move into a time of prayer, reflection, maturation and development.

World Meeting of Families: 22-26 June 2022

Every three years since 1994, the Church has celebrated the World Meeting of Families in a different city of the world. In 2022 the event will be hosted by the Diocese of Rome with Pope Francis leading special celebrations. However, the Holy Father has also asked that the World Meeting of Families be celebrated concurrently in every diocese of the world in 2022. The idea is for families to gather locally in Parishes and/or Deaneries and explore and celebrate the theme of "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness". Stay tuned for exciting opportunities to participate with the Diocese of Parramatta in 2022.

Caritas Project Compassion 2022 starts next Sunday

Caritas Australia's Lenten **Project Compassion** campaign will start on Project Compassion Sunday (27 February) and lead us all the way towards Easter. This year's theme **For All Future Generations** comes from the biblical story of the great flood (Genesis 9:12-15). It reminds us that the good we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Find out more at caritas.org.au/project-compassion or contact our Diocesan Director of Caritas: Sebastian.Salaske-Lentern@parracatholic.org or 0409 399 505.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2022

Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/ppmp to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Young People of the Diocese—we are with you

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website parracatholic.org/withyou contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.

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



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		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
19/20 Feb	WELCOMERS	Belinda Da Ruos	Maria & Steve Fry Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Jhun Javier	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Eileen Sherlock Maree McNeil	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS		Patrick McNeil	Elizabeth Cauchi	Sara Sawaya
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Maria Baldi & Vicky Hooper		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS			ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow
26/27 Feb	WELCOMERS		Brendan Ford	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina Lidia Ceccato
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Darren McNeil	Joe Touma	Jhun Javier
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Trish Keating	Nigel Saunders Kay Brooks	Sandra Tabone	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers	Patrick McNeil	Kerstin Grima Jack Treak	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	To be announced
	FLOWERS			ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow