



## St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

**20th March 2022**

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

### **"GOD GIVES US OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE IN THE DARK BUT IT IS UP TO US TO FIND THE LIGHT"**

Hundreds and thousands of people died during the pandemic, natural disasters, accidents and now war and violence etc. Those who died never experienced that ill fate because they were not loved by God or because they were the worst sinners, this is why we who are alive today, are not better than any of them in whatever respect. Your life today is simply a privilege and this privilege is an opportunity for you to repent or experience the same fate as those who have died. God does not want the death of His creatures, nor does he enjoy watching unrepentant sinners die, that is why there is always a second chance with God. In Ezekiel 18:23 the Lord says: "I do not take pleasure in the death of a wicked man(sinner) rather let him or her turn from his/her evil ways and live".

In today's gospel Jesus is asked about his opinion about an incident that had taken place which is reported to him. The incident involves the murder of pilgrims who had gone to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices in the temple. Apparently, Herod had them massacred and mixed their blood with that of the animals offered in sacrifice. The one who reported the incident wanted to know who was guilty and why had this tragedy taken place? What was the cause of it all? The query is understandable, as even today we like to find out who or what is responsible for the misfortunes that afflict society and us. In popular religions all misfortunes were looked upon as divine punishment for sins. The temptation to reach such a conclusion would be even greater for the Jews who looked upon material prosperity and a long life as a sign of divine favour. Jesus rejects outright such an interpretation and goes beyond this narrow perspective. We should not attribute tragedies and misfortunes to God nor should we blame people and their past for what is happening today. Mishaps and misfortunes do not indicate guilt! Yet, he continues, it is equally important that sin calls for repentance. If we do not repent of our sins we will perish. Therefore, all of us have to respond to God, repent and change our lives. All of us are called to be responsible and bring forth the fruit of repentance and conversion while we still have time. Jesus goes on to narrate the parable of the fig tree that has been planted but is fruitless. The man who had planted it had been patient for three years coming regularly to see if it would bear fruit. As it refuses to bear fruit the man asks the worker in the vineyard to cut it down. It does not deserve to be there in the vineyard. But the man pleads and asks for one more year of waiting, one more chance, perhaps it will bear fruit. We are not told what happened because the story of the fruitless vine is our own story. We are responsible for our lives and for whether we bear fruit or not. God has been patient with us for a long time but we cannot test God's patience forever. We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love. (Source: Fr. Clem C. Aladi and Fr Mark Link S.J.)



*A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowboat came by and the fellow shouted to the man on the roof, "Jump in, I can save you." The stranded fellow shouted back, "No, it's OK, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me." So, the rowboat went on.*



*Then a motorboat came by. "The fellow in the motorboat shouted, "Jump in, I can save you." To this the stranded man said, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith."*

*So, the motorboat went on. Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, "Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety." To this the stranded man again replied, "No thanks, I'm praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith. So, the helicopter reluctantly flew away. Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, "I had faith in you but you didn't save me, you let me drown. I don't understand why!" To this God replied, "I sent you a rowboat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?"*

The time is now, let us not procrastinate. Now is the time to reconcile with God and others. Tomorrow is a promise to no one. Many have died, no one knows who will be the next. While time still lasts let us bear the fruits of holiness and reconcile with God and others.

God's blessings  
Fr. Vince

# PARISH NEWS



## PRAYER AT ST MADS

The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30 am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
Prayer Group	Wednesday after morning Mass at 10am in the St Madeleine centre
St Mad's Book Club	To register contact Careyanne on <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
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 and Wednesday nights at 7pm Via Zoom: Zoom meeting ID 840 2707 2956 Contact Lydia Ceccato & Kay Brooks
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 <a href="mailto:stmads@yahoo.com.au">stmads@yahoo.com.au</a> )



## LENTEN REFLECTION GROUPS

Wednesday after Morning Mass 10am at St Madeleine Centre  
Friday morning 10.30am at St Madeleine Centre  
Sunday evening after 5.30pm Mass

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting to be held on:  
Date: Tuesday, 22 March 2022  
Time: 7pm  
At: St Madeleine's Centre

## LENTEN REFLECTION

Date: Wednesday, 30 March 2022  
Time: 7pm  
At: St Madeleine's Centre  
Presenter: Deacon Michael  
Topic: Self Care and Self Denial

## 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) = \$1,634.50  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$925.00  
Loose = \$1,224.85  
Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,978

## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

We hope the Justice for Refugees March and Rally this Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm goes well for Sydney Diocese Justice and Peace Office. This week is Harmony Week where we celebrate Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. March 22<sup>nd</sup> is World Water Day 2022 celebrating Groundwater - making the invisible visible. World Council Churches has seven-weeks-for-water-2022 [www.oikoumene.org/resources/bible-studies](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/bible-studies) Let us remember Stella Maris our Patron Saint of the Sea. The title "Stella Maris" first arose back in the 5th Century when St. Jerome translated Mary's Hebrew name Miryam, which means "drop of the sea" to the Latin "Stilla Maris". Mary later went from a "drop in the ocean" to the "star of the sea" when "Stilla Maris" became "Stella Maris".

Congratulations Deacon Michael Tan on your story in Liturgy on the Margins <https://liturgyonthemargins.org/2022/03/10/the-heart-and-the-spine-deacon-michael-tan/>

## HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES

**Palm Sunday** 9 April Saturday 5.30pm Vigil  
10 April 8am, 10am and 5.30pm Mass

### Holy Thursday

14 April 7pm  
**Good Friday** 15 April  
10am Stations of the Cross  
3pm The Passion of Our Lord



**Holy Saturday** 16 April Easter Vigil 5.30pm  
**Easter Sunday** 17 April 8am and 10am Mass

## FUNERAL OF THE LATE ERMINIA VUMBACA

Date: Thursday, 24 March 2022  
Time: 10.30am

A Vigil will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 23 March at our Church  
Our prayers are with Sam Vumbaca and his family

## FUNERAL OF THE LATE RAYMOND CARUANA

Date: Friday, 25 March 2022  
Time: 10.30am

Our prayers and condolences for his family

## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

**For the dearly departed:** Rita Franceschina, Eriberto Adan, Giuseppe Musso, Benito Sabellano, Cescilitta Villavert, Vince O'Neill, Thomas Farrell, Vicky Caruana, Mary Fatima Ovans, 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 Vacearella, Pablito Corpuz, Feliciana Sabellano



**Please pray for the sick:** Kenneth McLachlan, John Dal Ben, David Jurd, Jennifer Burgess

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 Shop:** Sandra Tabone

**Altar Linen Coordinator:** Catherine Diekman

**Parish Council Chair:** Patrick Tuttle

**Finance Committee Chair:** Carl Mathias

**Welcomers 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

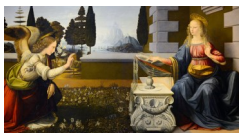
**Baptisms:** Every Sunday at 11:20

(Must make a booking)

**Weddings:** By appointment

## Annunciation of the Lord

**Feast Day:**  
**25 March**



The feast of the Annunciation, now a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/annunciation-of-the-lord>

## CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION 2022

Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.



## CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for various ministries in our parish. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help as a reader, welcomer, musician, singer, sacristan or with cleaning.

Could all existing volunteers please email the Parish Office: a form will be provided to you to update your details and confirm your availability.

[stmads@yahoo.com.au](mailto:stmads@yahoo.com.au)



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

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



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

## Position Vacant

Governance, Risk & Compliance Admin Support Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Wednesday 23 March**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://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](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19)

## 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.

## Marriage Preparation Courses in 2022

Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) 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](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

## Dr Laurie Woods Gospel Study Series: Starting 29 April

All are invited to join the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) for catechesis on the Gospel of St Luke with Dr Laurie Woods over 5 Fridays starting 29 April. The sessions will be held from 10am to 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre (formerly the IFM), Blacktown. To RSVP, please contact [ccassar.ccdparra@hotmail.com](mailto:ccassar.ccdparra@hotmail.com)

## Catholic Schools across the Diocese are enrolling now!

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are enrolling now for 2023. To learn more please contact your local Catholic school or visit our website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/find-a-school](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/find-a-school).

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





## Funerals of Compassion

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**Please contact the Parish Office  
if you would like to advertise  
your business**

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