



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

24th July 2022

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

"Stay faithful. If you're hurting, stay hopeful. Pray and give thanks to God for the opportunity to grow; ask Him to shed light, ask Him for clarity."

Thomas Nelson

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

How are you?

Congratulations to all children who made their First Reconciliation last Wednesday. I do hope that the children and their parents experienced the boundless mercy and love of God through this empowering and peace-giving sacrament. The children will now begin to prepare themselves for Holy Communion. May I ask parents to cooperate with the sacramental team and prepare their children for the reception of the Eucharist - "the source and summit of Christian life".

As a caring community, we keep them in our prayers during the time of their preparation.

I have always been drawn to meditative forms of prayer. I prayed the Rosary every night when I was going through the RCIA program in my early twenties. And when I discovered the Angelus prayer, I began to pray it in the morning, afternoon, and evening. I continued to explore the forms of meditative prayer our tradition offers, but over time, I grew tired of these prayers. I lost that feeling of connectedness to God—that feeling of knowing that God is there and listening. I kept trying to do something to get that feeling back. Eventually, it seemed there was nothing I could do, so I stopped trying.

Even though I stopped trying to reach God, God did not stop trying to reach me. At times I would feel a sudden and strong urge to pray. But I either ignored it or put it off until I did not feel it anymore. This tug-of-war with the Holy Spirit continued for a few years until my friend recommended me to a spiritual director, who helped me understand that I did not grow tired of prayer because God was not meeting me anymore; I grew tired of it because it was time to engage with God in prayer in a different way. Instead of choosing to grow in my prayer life, I gave up on it because I could not control it anymore. Perhaps if I had remained persistent in prayer, I would have realised that all I needed to do was to show up consistently and let God guide me.

"Lord, teach us to pray..."



Today's readings highlight the importance of persistent prayer. Although Abraham is depicted as having a direct conversation with God, the story can be thought of as a lesson on prayer. Abraham is hesitant to confront God repeatedly but chooses to do so anyway. He remains persistent in his desire to reach God and ends up successful in his mission. In the Gospel, Jesus gives the disciples a set prayer for when they

are at a loss for words. He then follows with a parable demonstrating the importance of perseverance in prayer. In this parable, Jesus does not delineate any special action or words that need to be recited when praying. What he highlights is the man's persistence, even when his friend was stubborn.

We may not always feel "in the mood" to pray. The desire to pray will come and go, as will our awareness of God's presence with us. But God is consistently at our sides whether we feel it or not. And remaining persistent in our prayer lives helps us to remember God's presence in our lives and keeps us open to seeing it. There are many ways to pray, but there is nothing special we really need to do to pray. Praying is about listening and giving up control to God. God is always waiting for us to come to him. All we need to do is show up - and show up consistently.

Following is a story to reflect on - The Empty Chair -

A man's daughter had asked the local pastor to come and pray with her father. When the pastor arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?"

"I'm the new associate at your local church," the pastor replied.

"When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the pastor shut the door.

"I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man.

"But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head.."

"I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now."

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The pastor was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the pastor that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he seem to die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange, in fact, beyond strange -kinda weird. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed."

(Author Unknown)



Let us lead a prayerful life! 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 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 at 7pm Via Zoom: Zoom meeting ID 840 2707 2956 Contact Kay Brooks & Lydia Ceccato 0400 372 561
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)



SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

July 30th is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, who have a Blue Heart campaign. The Blue Heart represents the sadness of those who are trafficked, while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings. Very proud that Parramatta Diocese contributed to the inaugural Eradication of Modern Slavery Catholic Action in Australia Annual Report 2019/2020 <https://antislavery.org.au/> with the aim to eradicate modern slavery in all its forms from the operations and supply chains of Catholic entities in Australia. Can you review the supply chains of the businesses you work with?? Last Wednesday the Modern Slavery and Climate Change - Towards An Integrated Approach by [Anti-Slavery Taskforce, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney](#) Climate change has made millions vulnerable to modern slavery. Displacement and migration because of climate change creates a nexus of harm that pushes people to accept work that actively contributes to environmental destruction of forests, fisheries, waterways and land. Weak regulation and enforcement, corruption, a lack of political will and the lure of profits combined with vulnerability of people creates a vicious circle of opportunity for forced labour, child labour, debt bondage and slavery.

St Bakhita Prayer for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. www.acan.org.au/aboutus

An **Automatic External Defibrillator** for our church is found in the Confessional room. You can watch the video link <https://youtu.be/o-uHeD41cq0> and get familiar with the mode of operation. It is to be taken out from the box only when needed. There is an alarm attached to the box.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St Madeleine's Centre at 10am to coincide with the 10am Family Mass
 Deb Rankin
 Children's Liturgy Co-ordinator

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Please provide your details to the Parish Office if you can help as a reader, welcomer, musician, singer,

sacristan, with flowers or with cleaning.



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) = \$1,027.10
 2nd Collection (for Parish)
 Envelopes = \$1,222 Loose = \$997.15

Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,443

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES please ensure all your details are up-to-date at the parish.

New envelopes will be provided in August.

No.2 and No.127 envelopes: please update your records - Ph. 9654 2260

Our prayers and condolences to Careyanne Moylan and her family on the demise of her mother, Margaret Beckett

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased: Margaret Beckett



For the dearly departed: Marie Allan, Eriberto Adan, Mary Cumbo, Michael & Theresa Caruana, Anthony Vella, Alfred Muscat, Nenu Zammit, Mary Gutajar, Maria Ceroli, Frank Martelli, Madeleine Thackray, Vaughan Hau, Giuseppe Bongiorno, Steve Pollock, Aldo, Joseph and Maria Tallon, Caterina & Giuseppe Musso, Filomena & Francesco Coreoglioniti

Please pray for the sick: Emily Larsen, David Martin, Antonia Desanti, John Dal Ben and 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

PIETY SHOP

Are you looking for a gift for a special person for Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism & Birthdays? Come and have a look in the piety shop.

We have an ever changing array of gifts and religious items. Special orders are welcome too. We are open after every weekend mass.

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413 272 400 for any special requests.



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:

Safeguarding: Suzanne Kingston-Hunt

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 Madeleine's Dinner Dance

Save the date!

Friday 4th November 2022

Tickets \$150 each

Tickets can be ordered via

stmadsdinnerdance@gmail.com

Please provide Table Name and no. of tickets

Payments can be made via

Kenthurst Catholic Church

BSB: 067 950

Acct number: 00000388

Reference Surname in payment details.

If you have questions or queries please email

Kim Parslow 0418 220 963

Sally Coppini 0407 942 986

stmadsdinnerdance@gmail.com

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY - SUNDAY, 24 JULY 2022

"Dear Grandparents, dear elderly persons, we are called to be artisans of the revolution of tenderness in our world!"

Pope Francis

FIRST EUCHARIST

Completed Enrolment documents for First Eucharist (Holy Communion) to be handed to the parish office no later than Friday, 19 August.

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

THANKYOU

A HUGE thankyou to all the wonderfully kind and generous people who have donated to the beanie appeal. We have received beanies, scarves, rugs and beautifully warm jackets. They are so much appreciated. I am hoping to get some photos- hope you can recognise your contribution! Deb

Saints Joachim and Anne



Feast Day:
26 July

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. Not only is his mother's family neglected, we also know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names "Joachim" and "Anne" come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died. The heroism and holiness of these people however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people. The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past. Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith, and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

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



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant: Personal Assistant, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta

Personal Assistant, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta. Full-time, 12-month position and based at Parramatta. Please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources for further information on [0402 210 055](tel:0402210055).

16th International World Youth Day Lisbon, Portugal - August 2023

One pilgrimage will be lead by the Diocese of Parramatta.

Launch event: Thursday, 18 August 2022 from 7pm at St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens

More information can be found at www.parrawyd.org

"Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39)

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2022

Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit 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 or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

Under the remaining influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, 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.

Volunteer Position Available—Housing Maintenance Volunteer, House of Welcome

House of Welcome (HOW), a partner of the Diocese of Parramatta is seeking a handyman to look after their properties, as they continue to support people in need in our communities. The Housing Maintenance Volunteer will also be required to provide face-to-face support for Occupants with practical components of their property and its care. This will be a short-term appointment, 1 day a week. For more information please contact HOW Volunteer Program Manager, Lumka Liwela Power on 0402 549 962 or Liwelapower@houseofwelcome.com.au.

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



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

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

23/24 July		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Lidia Ceccato Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop	Eileen Sherlock Maria Fry	Sandra Tabone Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers		Kerstin Grima	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS			Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella and Vicky Hooper		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
	FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper

30/31 July	WELCOMERS		Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Peter Balnaves	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Heidi Bou-Harb Mary Sammut	Margaret M Nigel Saunders	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Sandra Bonello
	JNR MINISTERS	Monia & Dom Bruggeling	Bailey Gambrill		
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sally Coppini
	FLOWERS	Wedding		ALTAR LINEN	Marian Piper