



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



28 ANNANGROVE RD, KENTHURST NSW 2156
(P) 9654 2260
(E) KENTHURST@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG OR
STMADS@YAHOO.COM.AU
(W) WWW.STMADELEINE.ORG.AU
OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

14th August 2022

20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Gird your hearts with silent fortitude, suffering yet hoping all things

- Felicia Hemans

Of all the prophets of the Old Testament, Jeremiah was probably the most misunderstood and mistreated. He had the misfortune of living at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Babylonians (586 BC), and of having to preach about this coming destruction to his fellow Hebrews, who refused to listen to him and considered him to be a traitor. But he did not reject his prophetic mission from God, and kept on preaching until the end. Jeremiah, like all holy men and women, had an essential virtue which we can all imitate: the virtue of fortitude. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good" (CCC, no. 1808). We admire people with strength of character who keep struggling to achieve a noble goal. It is the virtue of the athlete, the soldier, the mountain climber, and above all, of the saint. Saints are men and women who don't quit or run away when they face obstacles, either from the outside or the inside (their own fears and hesitations).

Good parents should teach fortitude and endurance to their children. They set guidelines for proper behaviour at home, along with certain tasks and duties. By mutual agreement, they also enforce consequences for children who are lazy, disobedient, or disrespectful. Without such training, children will often expect others to serve them in the years ahead, and will become selfish and unhappy persons. In a word, they will be spoiled because they were not taught to be responsible.

The followers of Christ need to be strong not only in human tasks, but also in spiritual ones. At times it will not be easy to get up and go to Mass on a cold and rainy Sunday. It will not be easy to commit to a daily plan of prayer, or to increase our study of the Catholic faith. It will not be easy to be patient and kind with people who annoy us. For this kind of strength, in both big and little things, we need God's grace. (Source: Homiletic and Pastoral Review).

Just to share with you my own experience: Growing up in a big family of 15, including my parents and grandpa, was not easy, but at the same time pleasant for me. Being a low-middle class family, we had to face a lot of difficulties in every aspect of life. But those occasions taught us the virtue of fortitude: to face the difficulties and inconveniences of life with the strength of faith. No one prefers to have a difficult life, but life floods us with storms and droughts which in turn shape our character and personality. In my priestly life and ministry, I have encountered heaps of difficulties like any other, irrespective of the nature and status of life. Reflecting back, I see the powerful, compassionate hand of God enabling me to tread the paths.

I was sent to the parish of Kamuthi (Diocese of Sivagangai, South India), where the demography was lower caste. (The caste system is still strong in India.) This parish was so peculiar, as there were three divisions, even in the lower caste, and I could see all the divisions in the parish. One Justice Sunday, I remember, I preached on the injustices done to those people within the parish in the sense that they were not included in the significant celebrations of the parish by the parishioners in the main centre. When I touched the topic, after the Mass, there was a revolt. They came to the sacristy when I was unveiling my vestments, and asked "Father, how can you preach like this?" I said, "Because that's what is happening in our parish. Those people are also made in the image and likeness of God and they are to be respected and included in parish life. Being a Christian, you can't exclude them on the basis of caste or any other factor. The problem is that you don't consider them at all as a part of the wider community." One of the young people said "Father, this is not the way you should preach. You should just preach about Jesus and God, that's all. Don't touch our lives." I said, "No, I will." In the face of such chaos and confusion, I was even offered to transfer to another parish, which I declined. I remember telling the Vicar of the Diocese that I was not ready for any move from the parish just because of this issue or concern. The rest is history. Similar experiences in the mission field have cemented my faith and ministry. The God we believe in continues to lead me in my priestly life and ministry.

In our lives many situations arise in which it becomes difficult to do the right thing, even when we know what it is. There may be all sorts of reasons for why it is disagreeable to act according to what we know is best. In order to stay strong, to do what is good, we need the cardinal virtue, known alternately as fortitude, courage, or bravery. This is the virtue by which we do the right thing, even in the midst of hardship. Let us pray that God gifts us with the virtue of Fortitude which is direly needed today!

God's blessings,
Fr. Vince

Fortitude

Courage in the face of

Pain

and

Adversity

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)



Vinnies 2022 Winter Appeal

This winter appeal we are giving Women & Children the chance to escape violence. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women & children. During these times pressures and stresses are causing a lot more cases and we experience this within our own community. So we ask for your help in providing a kind donation to go towards shelter and safety for those in need.

This winter appeal will have envelope collections during masses on 13-14 August 2022

If you prefer to donate on line prior please do so through <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>

Or you can phone 13 18 12

We thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

SAFEGUARDING LAUNCH

At the 10am Mass on 21st August there will be a short talk and ceremony to award our safeguarding recipients!

Find out what safeguarding means for our Parish!

Suzanne 0410 936 108



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 : 0000388

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) = \$1,027.95
 2nd Collection (for Parish)
 Envelopes = \$745.70 Loose = \$894.35

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

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MARIA SULTANA

Date: Wednesday, 17 August
At St Madeleine's
Time: 11am

Our prayers and condolences with the Sultana family

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the dearly departed: Norman & Chahida Hajje, Sheaddy & Chahide Hajje, George Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Betty & Mary Merhi, Joe & Adel Abraham, Ivan Ceccato, Joe Galea, Joseph & Louise Bonello, Rose & Anthony & Lawrence Apap, Johanna Dawson, Alegria Canseco-Ricafrente, Angelina Pardo-Adan, Giuseppe Fuda, Bill Patterson, Josephine Cortis, Margaret Beckett, Rev Fr Peter Caruana, Joseph Spiteri, Eriberto Adan, Mary Cumbo

Please pray for the sick: Emily Larsen, Antonia Desanti, 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



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION



Mass at St Madeleine's

Monday, 15 August at 9.15am

Launching SEASONS OF CREATION

with a Parish Bushwalk & free Morning Tea

When: Saturday, 3rd September 9am to 10am

Where: Timber Grove, Glenhaven

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 are open after every weekend mass. Contact Sandra Tabone 0413 272 400

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S 2022 NATSICC ASSEMBLY is on-line www.natsicc.org.au/ The theme for 2022 NATSICC Assembly is Holy Spirit in This Land and topics will include Laudato Si', Healing through Country, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Spirituality. 19 – 23 September 2022 Support the Uluru Statement <https://fromtheheart.com.au/signtheulurustatementcanvas/> Caritas Australia has established a new appeal, Make Hunger History, to raise awareness and funds for the Horn of Africa. There are a range of resources for parishioners to be informed, to pray and to donate. www.caritas.org.au/act/help-fight-famine/

God, Giver of Life: You made the earth and everything in it to flourish and live to the full. But today, in the Horn of Africa, waterholes run dry, desert locusts swarm, crops wither and people look for food. After years of drought, conflict and COVID-19, farmers struggle to save their livelihoods, families leave home in search of water and over 18 million people face extreme hunger. Help us bring the world back to life. Amen.

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

At Oatlands House

Tickets \$150 each

Tickets can be ordered via
stmadsdinnerdance@gmail.com

Please provide Table Name and no. of tickets

Payments can be made via

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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

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2022

SUNDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER

This annual appeal raises much needed funds for our Diocese's Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work of supporting retired clergy and those in ill-health.
parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal

This year's appeal will highlight the faithful service of our retired clergy, and in particular, Mons John Boyle, Fr Chris Dixon and Fr Bob Sheridan.

If you have any photos of Fr Chris Dixon from his time at St Madeleine's please email the office on stmads@yahoo.com.au

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

"At the end of the day, we must go forward with hope and not backward by fear and division"

Jesse Jackson



In late 2021, as my then-fiancée and I finalized the last details of our upcoming wedding, the Delta COVID wave began to rear its ugly head. While we knew that we *did not* want to postpone our wedding again, the rising case numbers did push us to complete an important task we had been putting off: asking our guests for their proof of vaccination. It was an easy ask for most of our friends, but the difficulty came with some of our older family members.

Personally, the most difficult conversation I expected to have was with my aunt, our wedding Mass *madrina*. My aunt is one of the most devout Catholics I know, someone who I credit as an important influence on my faith life. She is also one of the most firmly anti-vaccine people I know. The tension between us began early on in the pandemic. She would send me false, but well-meaning, articles and videos about the origins of COVID, and about how Catholics should not take the "anti-life" vaccine. When I asked where she came across that content, the answer was almost always from some dubious Catholic WhatsApp or Facebook group. Instinctively, I pushed back on the credibility of those sources and the conversation ended quickly afterward, both of us sensing the growing gap of understanding between us. Eventually, we spoke less and less often. How could it be that the shared faith that originally connected us became the source of distance between us?

I'm reminded of that early tension when reading today's gospel. Division is always a tough thing, but division rooted in faith can be particularly tricky. Our faith is so engrained in our identity and worldview that whenever we encounter someone that challenges our belief, it can feel like a personal attack. Oftentimes, arguments cause us to double down on our original positions, and separate ourselves from others to avoid conflict—even from family. However, the key to having a transformative conversation is less about convincing arguments, and more about building an authentic and respectful relationship. [As Pope Francis said in a recent address to the International Consortium of Catholic Media](#), "Fake news has to be refuted, but individual persons must always be respected..." In our current polarized times, this can be a real challenge. However this is also prophetic work that we're called to do, especially towards loved ones who disagree with us on important issues, despite sharing the same faith.

When I eventually reached out to my aunt to tell her about our wedding vaccine requirement, I didn't succeed in convincing her to get one. However, I was able to communicate something more important: that I cared about her and wanted her to be safe. Our conversation was loving and generous, and we ended up finding a compromise that worked for us both. Maybe one day we'll be on the same page regarding that issue. But in the meantime, minimizing the distance between us is more than sufficient.

By Colin Martinez Longmore



St Bernard of Clairvaux

Feast Day:
20 August 2022



In the year 1111, at the age of 20, Bernard left his home to join the monastic community of Cîteaux. His five brothers, two uncles, and some 30 young friends followed him into the monastery. Within four years, a dying community had recovered enough vitality to establish a new house in the nearby valley of Wormwoods, with Bernard as abbot. The zealous young man was quite demanding, though more on himself than others. A slight breakdown of health taught him to be more patient and understanding. The valley was soon renamed Clairvaux, the valley of light. His ability as arbitrator and counselor became widely known. More and more he was lured away from the monastery to settle long-standing disputes. On several of these occasions, he apparently stepped on some sensitive toes in Rome. Bernard was completely dedicated to the primacy of the Roman See. But to a letter of warning from Rome, he replied that the good fathers in Rome had enough to do to keep the Church in one piece. If any matters arose that warranted their interest, he would be the first to let them know. Shortly thereafter it was Bernard who intervened in a full-blown schism and settled it in favor of the Roman pontiff against the antipope. The Holy See prevailed on Bernard to preach the Second Crusade throughout Europe. His eloquence was so overwhelming that a great army was assembled and the success of the crusade seemed assured. The ideals of the men and their leaders, however, were not those of Abbot Bernard, and the project ended as a complete military and moral disaster. Bernard felt responsible in some way for the degenerative effects of the crusade. This heavy burden possibly hastened his death, which came August 20, 1153.

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



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant

Credo Youth Groups Coordinator – St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta

Applications close Friday 19 August at 5pm.

Accounts Officer - Diocese of Parramatta - **Applications close 10pm Sunday 21 August.**

Chaplaincy Coordinator - CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

Applications close 10pm Sunday 28 August. More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

The Diocese of Parramatta is heading to WYD23 in Lisbon

Bishop Vincent has announced a pilgrimage to the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from July 21 – August 11, 2023.

Young people 16-35 and their families are encouraged to learn more at www.parrawyd.org and

register for the upcoming Launch Event featuring Fr Rob Galea on August 18. For all enquiries contact James

Camden, Head Mission Engagement – james.camden@parracatholic.org

Get #Active4Vocations and spur our City2Surf team and Holy Spirit Seminarions on

Becoming a priest requires an incredible leap of faith. We have a team of Holy Spirit seminarions, deacons, priests, and community members taking their own leap of faith in the 14km City2Surf this weekend, getting #Active4Vocations. Show your support and spur them on with a donation. Your generosity will go the distance in helping our seminarions to become priests. Scan this QR code to donate to our #Active4Vocations team members or visit tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations. Thank you.





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13/14 August		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Sandra Tabone Zakia Touma	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Catherine Diekman Maria Baldi	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS		Bailey Gambriell	Kerstin Grima	
	MUSICIANS			Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella and Vicky Hooper		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Lisa Gerrard
	FLOWERS	Diane Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold

20/21 August	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Sandra Tabone Zakia Touma	Joseph Spina Lidia Ceccato
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Justin Sebire	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Pauline Chaccal Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Matilda Rogers		Kerstin Grima	Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS			Anucia & Team	
	COUNTERS	Vicky Hooper and Sandra Tabone		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
	FLOWERS	Wedding		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman