



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

15th January 2023
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 1: 1-3
John 1: 29-34

“Successful witnessing is taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.”— Bill Bright



Our prayers for Cardinal Pell who has reached sweet home in God’s time. In his tribute to the late Cardinal, Pope Francis has said that he was “a grateful soul” and “committed witness to the gospel and church” who also laid the foundations for changes now under way at the holy see’s secretariat for the economy, which Pell led between 2014 and 2019 with “determination and wisdom”. He bore witness to Christ even when he was subjected to public disgrace and imprisoned for a year or so. Even in the prison, he was able to bring the light of Christ to the fellow inmates. Such a tenacious faith he had all through his life. May we pray that he may rest in peace!

Every one of us, young and old, have stories to tell others; stories of joy, achievements, accomplishments, winning trophies or love, betrayal, loss, pain etc. John the Baptist in today’s gospel invites us to bear testimony to the spiritual peaks of our life such as miraculous escape from accidents, cure from terminal illness, freedom from guilt feelings through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the experience of the presence of Jesus during the turbulent moments of life etc. Today’s Gospel is a personal and corporate call to become a witness to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

According to Merriam-Webster online Dictionary, the definition of the word, “TESTIFY” is: to make a statement based on personal knowledge or belief, to serve as evidence or proof; to express a personal conviction; to make a solemn declaration under oath; to make known; to give evidence; to bear witness” To put it in a nutshell, to bear witness is to speak of what we know, what we have experienced.

The first Christians had a hard life; they were materially poor; they lived as an oppressed people; they lived under the colony of the Roman Empire and they had to endure harsh realities of life. Yet, they found the Spirit, a Light, a goodness that fired them up. They experienced an ineffable joy amid their persecutions and predicaments of life. They could not stop telling the story of Jesus as they found themselves coming to life in the presence of Jesus. They kept bearing witness to Jesus passing on the joy they had found. The life of many men and women in the history of the Church makes us think of our witnessing life.



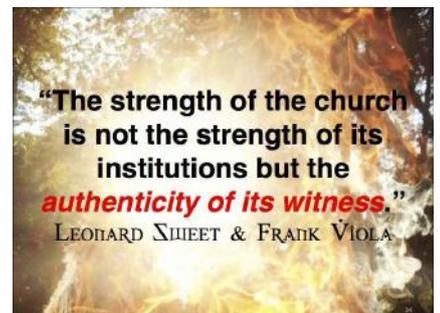
Recently, I visited a young mother who has been diagnosed with malignant cancer. Contrary to my imagination, she was smiling, lively, and delightful. She is very strong in her faith and she confidently believes that Jesus will never let her down. In my talk with the five young kids, I understood that they were totally upset on hearing the plight of their mother, yet, they are very supportive of their mum in all the possible ways. How well they testify to their faith even amid their suffering. My meeting with the family was really a challenge to me personally. Sure, many of us could instantly share the sentiments and the conviction of this family when it comes to our relationship with God especially at the crossroads of our life.

“For many of us faith has always been something to be expressed in church on Sundays, not on the rest of the week at Schools, Sports clubs, market places and working places. And even if we wanted to testify, what on earth could we say about our messy lives, our doubts, and our mistakes? Who would listen? What if we opened our mouths and looked like fools? What if we did more harm than good? What if people laughed or even worse ignored us? What if we just aren’t important enough, or faithful enough, or nice enough for our stories to matter?”



But today’s passages urge us to take a chance—to remove the shades from our lamps and fill our mouths with a new song. Like it or not, if we are people of faith, we are witnesses to the truth—a witness that someone else may desperately need to hear. Maybe our life testimonies, as ordinary as they seem to us, are truly heroic. Maybe they are the stuff of legends, sharp and bright, worthy to be told and retold, whether anyone is really listening, or not. Today’s gospel reminds us that on this journey, there is no room to hide; no time for silence; no place for false modesty. What we have been given, we must, in turn, proclaim” (Source -Susan Fleming McGurgan).

God’s blessings
Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS



PRAYER AT ST MAD'S

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: Explanation of Sunday Mass Gospel, Pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
St Mad's Book Club	To register contact Careyanne on careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
RCIA	For enquires contact Fr Vincent or Parish Office
St Mads Rosary	Thursday after morning Mass Monday Rosary Via Zoom—Resumes Monday, 30 January 2023 at 7pm 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)



Our prayers and condolences with Nuri and her family on the demise of her father Roberto Motta Pirotonelli

FUNERAL OF THE LATE KEITH DAWSON

Date Friday, 20 January 2023
Time: 10.30am
at St Madeleine's

Our prayers and condolences with Marilyn and her family

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 weekend Masses or 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) = \$1,050.75
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$1,277 Loose = \$1,054.45

Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,874.23

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

Invitation to Celebrate Pongal on 21 January 2023 CMRC has been celebrating Tamil Farmers' Festival (Thai Pongal) called "Parramatta Pongal" since 2013 in Parramatta with Tamil organisations and community members. "Thai Pongal", has been celebrated among the South Indian and Sri Lankan Tamils, signifying the end of the traditional farming season. The harvest month is an important feature among the agricultural community as communities celebrate the fruits of their hard labour. It symbolizes the veneration of the first fruit harvested and gratifies the hard work of farmers and cows ploughing the fields. Venue: Saint Patrick's Cathedral 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta Contact: Consilia Jerome Emilianus @consilia.emilianus@cmrc.com.au

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION—January

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

LET US ALL REMEMBER THIS: ONE CANNOT PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS WITHOUT THE TANGIBLE WITNESS OF ONE'S LIFE.

- POPE FRANCIS -

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PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



For the recently deceased: Giuseppe Carli, Roberto Motta Pirotonelli, Keith Dawson

For the dearly departed: Antonio Votano, Giulio Ceccato, Anthony Grima, Mary Cumbo, Lina Tabone, Filiciana N Sabellano, Michele Vaccarella, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Giulia & Fulvio Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Olive Burns, Ortensia Russo, Pablito Corpuz, Francesco Piperata

Please pray for the sick: Hoani Alexander Barker, Sofia Viizzo, Margaret Martin, 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

PIETY SHOP

God's Word 2023 is now available for \$20



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 2nd and 4th Sunday
at 11:20am

(Must make a booking)

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You,

Holy Spirit,

as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,

make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go

and how we are to pursue it.

We are God's beloved children:

may our journey together

be marked by humble listening,

courageous speech, and lively hope.

Let us find in You our unity

as we seek to do what is right.

All this we ask of You,

*who are at work in every place and
time,*

*in the communion of the Father and
the Son, forever and ever.*

AMEN

Adapted from the original

PARISH VOLUNTEERS:

please provide current contact details by completing a form found online (use the QR Code).

Copies available in the Church.

Please also contact the parish office if you can help as a reader, welcomer, musician, or with providing flowers.



Faith and Formation session for
Catholic Health Care Professionals
Saturday 11 February 2023 9am-10.30am
All-Saints of Africa Centre, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown
Diocesan Mass with Anointing begins at 11:00am
RSVP by 06 Feb to met@parracatholic.org



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Sr Nathalie Becquart Sydney Public Forum and Lecture: 3 February

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCI, the Vatican's most influential female, is coming to Australia for a whirlwind tour in February 2023. Sr Nathalie will be in Sydney on Friday 3 February, presenting at a public forum at 4pm and a public lecture at 7pm, both held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Places are limited, so please register via <https://parracatholic.org/srnathalie/>.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2022 to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

SAVE THE DATE—Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 19 February

You are invited to the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking on Sunday 19 February at 2pm at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. We hope you will join us to commemorate the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in Australia and worldwide and look forward to celebrating the legacy of St Josephine Bakhita with you.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, 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.

Liturgical Ministry Formation courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

2022-23 Social Justice Statement "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse"

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2022-23 "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse" invites us to engage with a complex and challenging social reality: domestic and family violence and abuse. The Australian Bishops call for all people to take part in the individual and social transformation needed so all people can live in safety. Download the statement at www.bit.ly/SJS22-23

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

St Anthony of Egypt

Feast Day:

17 January 2023



The life of Anthony will remind many people of Saint Francis of Assisi. At 20, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, "Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor" (Mark 10:21b), that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony's life was spent in solitude. He saw the world completely covered with snares, and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance. At 54, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again, like Francis, he had great fear of "stately buildings and well-laden tables." At 60, he hoped to be a martyr in the renewed Roman persecution of 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At 88, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church centuries to recover. "The mule kicking over the altar" denied the divinity of Christ. Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil—the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for "the book of nature" over the printed word. Anthony died in solitude at age 105.



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

14 & 15 Jan		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Heidi Bou-Harb Robert Gerometta	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima			
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Resumes School Term 1, 2023
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garrett	
21 & 22 Jan		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Pat Waters	Eileen Sherlock Maria Fry	Sandra Bonello Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS		Bailey Gambrell		
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper & Sandra Tabone		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Resumes School Term 1, 2023
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper	