



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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



19 February 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Cor 3:16-23

Mt 5:38-48

A LITTLE BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST – Pope Francis

A priest was teaching on the topic of love. He asked the question to his listeners: "Who among you here do not have enemies?" An old man raised his hand. The priest was delighted. "Look at him! Such a perfect example of love! Tell us. What did you do?" The old man said, "Nothing. I have no more enemies because they are all dead."

Mark Twain once said this about the Bible: "I have no problem with those parts of the Bible I don't understand. It's those parts of the Bible I do understand that gives me fits." I wonder if the readings of this Sunday give us fits and make us uncomfortable.

Be holy and be perfect is the resounding call of the readings. The first reading gives us the way to share God's holiness through loving our neighbors as ourselves.

The responsorial psalm challenges us to be like our God, kind, merciful and forgiving. The second reading calls to be holy as we are the temples of the Holy Spirit.



In the gospel Jesus condemns even the mild form of 'the tribal law of retaliation'. Instead of the restricted retaliation allowed by Moses, Jesus gives his new law of love, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation and no retaliation. For Jesus, retaliation, or even limited vengeance, has no place in the Christian life. Jesus proposes to overwhelm the wrongdoer by incredible generosity; to treat the enemies with the same justice as to our neighbours. The neighbours here do not mean our kith and kin... relatives and friends... Jesus enlarges the concept of neighbour to the enemies, the wrongdoers, the bad influence etc. Is it possible?

As the media bear witness every day, retaliation is often widely disproportionate. Family homes are demolished, whole villages punished for one individual's transgression. Men and women murder their children to get even with their estranged spouse. Innocent people are victimized in the process of retaliation through vengeance, violence and war and moreover by building walls among the people.

I believe Jesus knows that we can't be perfect and holy one hundred percent... and so he has set holiness, forgiving love as the standard goal that we could reach for. Holiness could mean set apart... it is also defined as goodness whereby the spark of divinity is shining through us...

We need to understand also that Jesus is not saying that we should allow ourselves to be abused. Abuse is never an acceptable thing. However, we don't allow ourselves to wallow in revenge or anger or get back at people by being abusive ourselves. Martin Luther King got it right when he preached about 'active non-resistance'; others like Nelson Mandela and Gandhi also follow Christ's mandate. We can overcome it by doing good to others and wearing them down that way. It may appear to be impractical, non-sense for many of us but that's the way Jesus lived by and that's the road map of our life as given by Him.



A kindergarten teacher decided to let her class play a game. The teacher told each child in the class to bring along a plastic bag containing a few potatoes. Each potato will be given a name of a person that the child hates. So the number of potatoes that a child will put in his/her plastic bag will depend on the number of people he/she hates. So, when the day came, each child brought some potatoes with the name of the people he/she hated. Some had 2 potatoes; some 3 while some up to 5 potatoes. The teacher then told the children to carry with them the potatoes in the plastic bag wherever they go (even to the toilet) for 1 week.

Days after days passed by, and the children started to complain due to the unpleasant smell let out by the rotten potatoes. Besides, those having 5 potatoes also had to carry heavier bags. After 1 week, the children were relieved because the game had finally ended....

The teacher asked: "How did you feel while carrying the potatoes with you for 1 week?". The children let out their frustrations and started complaining of the trouble that they had to go through having to carry the heavy and smelly potatoes wherever they went. [short story]

Then the teacher told them the hidden meaning behind the game. The teacher said: "This is exactly the situation when you carry your hatred for somebody inside your heart. The stench of hatred will contaminate your heart and you will carry it with you wherever you go. If you cannot tolerate the smell of rotten potatoes for just 1 week, can you imagine what is it like to have the stench of hatred in your heart for your lifetime???"

This is a great metaphor for the price we pay for keeping our pain and heavy negativity! Too often we think of forgiveness as a gift to the other person, and it clearly is for ourselves!

Being a great psychologist and psychiatrist, Jesus gives us the medicine of naming and shaming the wrongdoers by means of being generous to them in love and forgiveness always with Justice. Are we willing to go beyond the rules, boundaries and the parameters set by most of the people? (Sources duly acknowledged)



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 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)



Lenten groups

Start: 28 February

Tuesday at 7pm in the St Madeleine centre, led by Deacon Michael and Careyanne, on *From Ashes to Hope*. Available at the Piety store.

Wednesday after 9.15 mass, in the St Madeleine Centre, led by Pauline Camilleri, discussing the Lenten gospels.

Sunday after 5.30 mass, in the church, led by Sue Martin examining *A Short History of Happiness*.

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) = \$1,222
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$977.50 Loose = \$1,020
Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,874.23

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S Over the course of Lent, the Ignatian Solidarity Network invites you to join us as we stand in solidarity with our migrant sisters and brothers. We will provide opportunities for you and your community to accompany migrants in prayer, fasting, and action.: igsol.net/lmac It is the No Buy Lent Challenge. The UCA Environmental Action Group have created the Just Earth app, each day has a Biblical passage and reflection, a unique set of quotations and a practical action and prayer. What eco-challenge will you take on this Lent?

PIETY SHOP

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



We are open after every weekend Mass.

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413 272 400

FUNERAL OF THE LATE

PATRICK MCGLOIN

Date Tuesday, 21 February 2023

Time: 11am

at St Madeleine's

Our prayers and condolences with Kathy and her family

Have you had the chance to complete your Safeguarding Training? Or perhaps you need to complete One module? Please take advantage of one of these dates in readiness for Ministry in '23!

St Bernadette's Parish CASTLE HILL
Saturday 4th March 9.00AM - 2.00PM

RSVP Suzanne 0410 936 108 or online
Suzanne - Parish Safeguarding Champion
m. 0410 936 108



PROJECT COMPASSION boxes and envelopes available in the Church
Please return by Holy Thursday



CONFIRMATION: for children in Yr 5 onwards who have received their first Eucharist.

Enrolment forms available from our parish office and on our website.

Completed documents to be handed in to the parish office **by Friday, 3 March**.
Parent Information Evening **Tuesday, 7 March** at either 4.30pm or 7pm
For any queries stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

MORNING TEA - SUNDAY, 5 MARCH

after 10am Mass to welcome Fr Adam Carlow and to thank Deacon Michael Tan

Please bring a plate

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently deceased: Susan Margaret Jack, Patrick McGloin, Anthony Sultana

For the dearly departed: Victoria Caruana, Joe Camilleri, Norah Joy, Tony Smith, Rita Franceschina, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Sheady & Chahide Hajje, George Hajje, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Abraham family, Betty & Mary Merhi, Darren O'Reilly, Michele Vaccarella, John Spencer, Angela Barbaro, Giacomina Zancanaro, Anthony & Rose, Lawrence Apap, Joseph & Louise Bonello, John Spencer, Francesco Piperata, Silvestro Gatto

Please pray for the sick: Aura Krakowszky, 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

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Alexandra Mifsud, Selina Calleia & Joan Sattler

Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil
Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Pauline Chaccal

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

Assistant Priest

Rev Adam Carlow

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

St Madeleine's Open Day

Thursday 9th March

9:15am - 10am

Enrolment for 2024 **Forms** are on our school website [http://](http://www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au/)

www.stmadeleineskenthurst.catholic.edu.au/

PH: 9654 6751

Email: stmadeleines@parra.catholic.edu.au

2023 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Join us on **FRIDAY 3 MARCH** to pray in an ecumenical group of local churches.

"I have heard about your faith" (Eph 1:15-19) is the theme written by the Christian women of Taiwan.

When: 10.30 am

Where: Seventh Day Adventist Church, 49 Arcadia Rd Galston

More info: Careyanne 0438791813



8 FEBRUARY ANTI SLAVERY DAY: ST BAKHITA FEAST DAY DISCUSSION

Watch: [What is Modern about Modern Slavery? \(vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com/711111111)

Help stop slavery: [Making slavery unacceptable | The Catholic Weekly](https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/making-slavery-unacceptable)

More info and join the discussion:

Careyanne 0438791813

St Peter Damian

Feast Day:

21 February 2023



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. They lived two monks to a hermitage. Peter was so eager to pray and slept so little that he soon suffered from severe insomnia. He found he had to use some prudence in taking care of himself. When he was not praying, he studied the Bible. The abbot commanded that when he died Peter should succeed him. Abbot Peter founded five other hermitages. 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 asked often to be allowed to retire as cardinal-bishop of Ostia, and finally Pope Alexander II consented. Peter was happy to become once again just a monk, but he was still called to serve as a papal legate. When returning from such an assignment in Ravenna, he was overcome by a fever. 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

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



Our own Sue Martin will share her spiritual journey and explore why conserving platypus is part of her faith mission. She is the Ecology Officer for the Australian Jesuits, working with all our dioceses. Sue is a "passionate and qualified senior education and engagement manager focused on deepening the bonds that are needed to build a sustainable future." "I live by the Jesuit motto 'faith doing justice'...I believe change starts locally..." Sue wears many hats including chairing our local environment group *Cattai Hills Environment Network (CHEN)* and is President of the *NSW Chapter of the Environmental Education Professional Association*.

Join us

Saturday 18 March, 8.30am

At St Madeleine's Centre



Monthly Intention:

We pray for families to be fertile ground for integral ecology and care for creation.

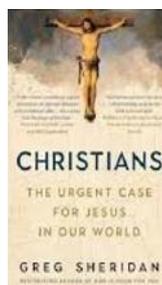
"In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we first learn the proper use of things, order and discipline, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures" (LS-213).

Laudato Si Meeting

Zoom ID 87281082317

1 March, 7pm

Come join us in prayer: this month for the role of the family. Join our discussion on Denis Edwards "Ecology at the Heart of Faith" available free online. Just call for the link. Careyanne 0438791813



Join us Zoom ID 87375069161 on 29 March

More info: Careyanne 0438791813

Illiteracy is evident in the general population regarding Christianity, religion more generally, and the Bible. It is into this pool of ignorance that Greg Sheridan has waded with his new book, "Christians: The Urgent Case of Jesus in the World." The book is divided into two parts. The first is called 'Jesus and his Friends', the second, 'Christians and their new Worlds.' The first looks more specifically at the Gospels and the key characters therein and well as the doctrinal significance that emerges from them; the second concerns Christians today, including several interviews and profiles of Christians in Australia today. This structure, succeeds combining a more intellectual discussion in part 1, with a more personal reflection in part two. He argues persuasively for the historicity and the significance of the Gospels.



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



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY	
18 & 19 Feb	WELCOMERS	Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina	
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Anne & Justin Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey Gambrell		
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sandra Bonello
	FLOWERS	Hills Family Funerals		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold

	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY	
25 & 26 Feb	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Justin Sebire	Maria Fry Eileen Sherlock	Sandra Tabone Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire			Thomas & James Barker
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Sonali Arnold		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Deb Rankin
	FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Sonali Arnold



LENT 2023- ST MADELEINE'S PARISH
28 ANNANGROVE ROAD KENTHURST NSW 2156

Lent is one of the five seasons of the Catholic liturgical calendar, along with Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Ordinary Time. It precedes Easter and is a solemn period centred on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a special time of reconnecting with or deepening our faith through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Prayer reflections, Stations of the Cross, fasting, sharing our blessings with the less fortunate through Caritas Australia etc. May I encourage our parish and school communities to be a part of various programmes whereby we renew our baptismal commitment to God and His Kingdom in our community.



ASH WEDNESDAY 22 February 9.15am and 7pm Mass

Ash Wednesday, where ashes are sprinkled on our heads to remember our own mortality and begin our journey of prayer and penance.



PROJECT COMPASSION brings us together to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Project Compassion boxes and envelopes will be available in the Church. Please return on Holy Thursday.



PRAYER REFLECTIONS Tuesday 7pm in the St Madeleine Centre

Wednesday after 9.15am Mass in the St Madeleine Centre

Sunday after 5.30pm Mass
 Contact Parish Office 9654 2260

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 3 March 10.30am
 Seventh Day Adventist Church, 49 Arcadia Road, Galston

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, 18 March 8.30am in the St Madeleine Centre

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, 25 March 8.30am in the St Madeleine Centre
 Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813



STATIONS OF THE CROSS Every Friday 7 pm

A series of usually 14 images or pictures especially in a church that represent the stages of Christ's passion and death. It is a popular devotion involving commemorative meditation before the stations of the cross on each Friday during Lent and on Good Friday.



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Thursday, 30 March 5.30pm or 7pm

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

1 April

Saturday 5.30pm Vigil Mass

2 April

Sunday 8am, 10am and 5.30pm Mass

Palm Sunday recalls an event in the Christian Scripture (The New Testament) of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. For Christians, it is a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him.



HOLY THURSDAY

6 April

7pm

followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood. The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his Disciples in Jerusalem.



GOOD FRIDAY

7 April

10am Stations of the Cross

3pm The Passion of our Lord

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



HOLY SATURDAY

8 April

Easter Vigil 5.30pm Mass

Holy Saturday, also called Easter Vigil, Christian religious observance that ends the Lenten season, falling on the day before Easter Sunday. It is a beautiful celebration when we renew our baptismal promises and rejuvenate our faith in the living God.



EASTER

9 April

Sunday 8am, 10am and 5.30pm Mass

Easter is the victory of Jesus over death and it gives us hope in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties of life.