



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

5 February 2023
5th Sunday in Ordinary
Time, Year A
Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Cor 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

“Nothing can dim the light that shines from within.” — Maya Angelou

“Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless. clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own”. These ancient words from the prophet Isaiah seem very clear. They speak to our times today. Our world is filled with immense suffering - hunger, poverty, homelessness, oppression, violence etc.

Growing up in the Catholic community, I was raised to develop a sense of duty to care for the homeless, helpless, hungry, and forsaken. The practice of “service” and “volunteerism” were baked into the culture of going to church. Collections were taken at Mass; service trips and community projects were organized by the members of our parish.

These tenets became embedded into my ethical understanding of how I am responsible for my neighbour, community, and world. However, oftentimes, it seemed like we were merely putting a Band-Aid on a much larger wound. This was a struggle in my formative years as a young adult Catholic and something that still challenges my understanding of the mission of our faith community. I saw much of this work as falling short of how I imagined our world could and should be.

My exposure to and participation in Catholic good works made me impatient for solutions to complex social issues. I studied psychology, sociology, and public policy - seeking a deeper and tactical understanding of how to move our society out of the darkness and into the light. I didn't find the answers I was looking for in either the church, academia, or even working with local government and nonprofits.

In our second reading, Paul says we can't rely on human wisdom alone. And that resonates with me. I've studied our history. I've learned about all the ways we've tried to heal our wounded world. We've tried. We even conducted a “War” on poverty. And yes, we've made some progress. But at this point in our history, with the wealth and abundance surrounding all of us... no one should be patting themselves on the back. Our “human wisdom” has fallen short. Something in our minds and hearts is preventing us from really committing to building the Kingdom of God here on earth.

For me, Isaiah's message is a challenge to do more than “Band-Aid work.”

For us to step into the light and, like Jesus said, really “let our light shine before others,” we must transform our thoughts and daily behaviours. Caring effectively for the oppressed in our world requires radical transformation. It will take more than seasonal or one-time efforts - like food drives and service trips. It will take nothing less than the Gospel call to conversion – to go beyond our small self to a higher mind and consciousness.

When we engage in this process of transformation, we become moved to change the system that creates human suffering. When we step into this Light, we reckon with how our inaction and silence has maintained the status quo and prevented the emergence of God's kingdom.

When we draw close to God, we're led to reject our tendencies to engage in, as Isaiah says, “false accusations and malicious speech.” We're challenged to look at our own unloving attitudes that can sometimes be pervasive, even though often unconscious. If we cannot rely on human wisdom alone, as Paul says, then where does that leave us?

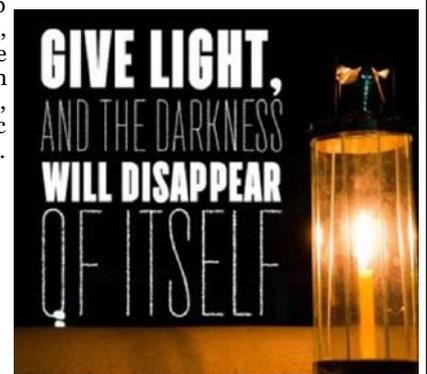
We live in an information overload. Just turn on the news for 10 minutes, and you know exactly what I mean. The need is so great; the stakes are so high, that it's easy to succumb to apathy and even a self-preservationist line of thinking. Sometimes the pain and suffering of the world are so great that we silence it.

But if we tune it all out, avoid the pain and suffering, give up hope, point only to the failure of institutions, and accept the issues plaguing our society as inevitable – and permanent – can we really help to create the Kingdom of God? Visualize God's Kingdom here on earth - a world where the psychosocial disease of racism is eliminated, where equity is embedded in our worldview and systems; the natural world is protected from environmental harm, the tribalism among our religious sects and political camps is behind us. Visualize a world where no one hungers, the afflicted are comforted, and people are treated equally regardless of their race, sex, gender, income, education, and sexual orientation.

It's in our nature to love and serve because of the divine presence within. Look to the scientific findings of contemporary biology. So fundamental is charitable behaviour to our nature as humans, we observe a phenomenon that occurs when we help others. Our brains release hormones - boosting our mood and counteracting the effect of stress. When we, as Isaiah proclaims, “share our bread with the hungry and clothe the naked”- our bodies thank us – we are healed, we defy the gloom of our world. Our psyches and spirits are illuminated! I'm still seeking a path that leads to the transformation of society on a deeper level. As I open my heart to the divine presence, I'm listening more, and trying to discern what God is calling me to do. And while I recognize that public reform and charity are crucial, I also know this work is about more than handing out bread to the poor. This is more than a one-time public policy measure, philanthropic event, or election; this is a life's work.

Let us bravely step into the light and, together, be about liberating others and ourselves from oppressive thinking. As we draw closer to the light, perhaps the prophetic words of Isaiah, Paul, and Jesus may embolden us to work toward bringing healing, justice, and peace to our world. Is this not what the Kingdom of God is all about? - **Reflections of MARY C. MIRO** (Source duly acknowledged)

God's blessings
Fr. Vince



Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, a community of faith and service, strives to be a witness for Christ's love far and wide, reflecting the humility and wisdom of St Madeleine, the Patroness of the parish.

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)



CATECHISTS

Our local schools, of which there are 4, are in need of Catechists.
We have a group of great dedicated parishioners, who attend the local schools, each week.
If you are wanting to join, or you have any questions, please contact

Maureen Jones 0419 512 252 or
Email maureenjones782@hotmail.com
or Father Vince 9654 2260.



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 : 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) = \$998
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$984 Loose = \$976.50

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

Prayers are with Bishop Vincent as he participates in the Oceania assembly this coming week in Fiji. The ecclesial network RAOEN lead by Jesuit Pedro Walpole sj, will also be present expressing hope by Indigenous and Local Communities for greater welcome and cultural inclusion in a new way of being Church. Some dates for the diary Project Compassion Online sharing 15th February 6:30pm with Sebastian and James from the MET team email Sebastian.Salaska-Lentern@parracatholic.org for the link. You are invited to the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and of Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: Sunday 19 February, 2:00pm Mary, Queen of the Family Parish (St Patrick's Church). March 9th Parramatta Cathedral Day of Action with the Laudato Si' movement and ARRCC asking Catholic organisations to include in their ethical investment policies the exclusion of fossil fuel intensive projects, in line with catholic social teaching and Decree 8 of the Plenary Council 2022.

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!

Mary Immaculate Parish QUAKERS HILL
Monday 13th February 9.30AM - 2.30PM

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

RSVP Suzanne 0410 936 108 or online



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

Enrolment forms will be available next week from our parish office and on our website.

Completed documents to be handed in at the parish office **by Friday, 3 March**.
Parent Information Evening **Tuesday, 7 March** at either 4.30pm or 7pm

PLEASE NOTE: the enrolment process is completed by handing in the enrolment documents; and, attendance at BOTH the Parent Information Evening AND a Commitment Mass on the weekend of **11 & 12 March**.

All Preparation Sessions are compulsory and to be attended by your child and one parent, followed by 5.30pm Mass:

4pm **Sundays 19, 26 March and 2, 30 April**
Reconciliation **Wed 29 March** 5.30pm or 7pm
Confirmation 7pm on Wed 3 May and Fri 5 May

For any queries stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

Congratulations to all our recently baptised: Marlo Mura, Jett Meinke, Archer Ceroli and Micah Gunasingam Grosse

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased: Angela Barbaro, Giacomina Zancanaro

For the dearly departed: Anthony & Rose, Lawrence Apap, Joseph & Louise Bonello, John Spencer, Francesco Piperata, Silvestro Gatto, Mary Cumbo, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Joe Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Ky Frenedo, Goeff Burcham, Domenico & Rita Franceschina, Keith Dawson, Joseph Tabone, Connie Vella, Maria La Spina, Giuseppe Carli, Roberto Motta Pirocelli, Antonio Votano

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: 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



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

PIETY SHOP

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

We are open after every weekend Mass

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400
for any special requests



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

Positions Vacant:

- Parish Office Administration Assistant – St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood.
 - Policy Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**
 - People and Culture Adviser – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**
- More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Annual Legal Red Mass: 6 February

Members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families are cordially invited to the annual Legal Red Mass on Monday 6 February 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral from 7.30pm. The Red Mass is an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith for the new year. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by 3 February via enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au or (02) 8839 8400.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

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

MET Lenten Music Formation Session: 13 February

Musicians and liturgy planners are invited to attend an evening exploring music for Lent on Monday 13 February from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, MET, and Assistant Music Director at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To RSVP, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharing: 15 February

Peace, Justice and Ecology (PJE) Sharings are quarterly online gatherings for everyone who is interested in Social Justice, Care for Creation or Global Peace. You are invited to join the conversation, this time with a focus on Caritas Project Compassion 2023 on Wednesday 15 February from 6:30pm to 8pm. To receive a Zoom link, please RSVP via email: met@parracatholic.org

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.

MET Lenten Scripture Reflection Night: 21 February

Looking for a Scripture reflection session on the season of Lent? You and your key contacts are most welcome to attend the 2023 Diocesan Lenten Scripture Reflection Night with Dr Laurie Woods. Tuesday 21 February – 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pparra.org.au/lent2023>

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

St Josephine

Bakhita

Feast Day:

8 February 2023



For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!" The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/calendar/>



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

4 & 5 Feb		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Heidi Bou-Harb	Tony Hooper Eileen Sherlock	Jacqui Nisbet Roslyn Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey Gambrell		
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
FLOWERS	Funeral		ALTAR LINEN	Kathy Fenech	

11 & 12 Feb		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Fran & Rocco Scardino	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Dianne Millington	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Justin Sebire Colleen Dunlop	Maria Baldi Catherine Diekman	Karla Quinn Adriana Kennedy	Sandra Tabone Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Sonali Arnold		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
FLOWERS	Wedding		ALTAR LINEN	Kathy Fenech	