



# 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

12th March 2023

3rd Sunday of Lent  
Year A

Exodus 17:3-7  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42

**“Water is a gift from God and a common heritage that should be universally used for each generation.” Pope Francis**



Once upon a time, on a hot sunny afternoon, a crow was seen flying around in search of water to quench her thirst. For a very long time, she was unable to find water and she became weak and frustrated but she did not give up. Suddenly, she saw a jug of water within a neighbourhood. She was excited! She flew straight down to see if there was water inside. She saw some water inside the jug!

The next thing was to get some water from the jug, but there was a problem! The neck of the jug was so narrow and the water level was also very low, making it impossible for the crow's peak to get to the water. In her frustration, she tried to push the jug down in view of spilling out water, but the jug was too heavy for her to push. The crow did not give up as she tried another thing. This time she started picking pebbles and throwing them into the jug. As she did so the water level in the jug began to rise until it came up to the level, she could get some water. Her thirst for water brought about this zealous creativity.

Water is obviously very important to life generally; whether for plants, animals or human beings. Human anatomy tells us that the human body is made up of about 73% of water. Geologists are also of the opinion that the earth is made up of more than 70% of water. Water is one commodity we cannot dispense with. I have not yet seen anyone who does not drink water. The simple truth is that we need water for various things beginning from our body metabolism to cleaning and washing and other things; in fact, from dawn to dusk we interact with water at various levels of uses and life without water is just ineffective!

In the First Reading from the Book of Exodus, the Israelite people tormented by thirst in the wilderness are crying out for water. In the face of their mistrust, Moses believes in God's power to save; in the face of their grumbling, he lifts his hands in prayer; in answer to their testing, he proves God's presence by striking the rock to bring forth water.

St. Paul, in the Second Reading from his Letter to the Romans tells us that faith, hope and love are God's gifts to us. We are all God's chosen people called upon to live purified lives and God's love was poured into our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit that has been given to us through Christ. The gifts of God are like 'life-giving water' for us.



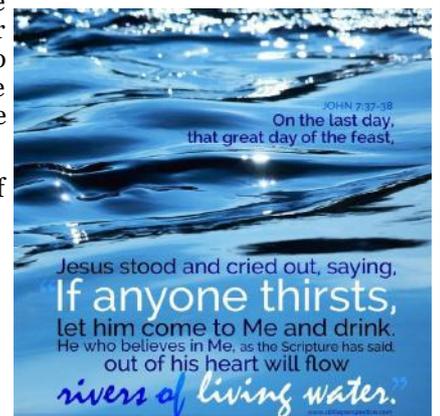
Today's gospel is a dialogue between Jesus, a Jew and a Samaritan woman. She comes to fetch water from the well at noon time... Jesus asks for some water and that is the starting point of their conversation... the conversation takes different phases... Water... the cultural discrimination... worship of God... the prophets and their messages... life style... and finally ends up with transformation of life... acceptance of the community ...

The woman at the well experiences a radical transformation in herself which prompts her to become a 'reconciling presence' of Jesus in the community which had kept her at the margins of the society. The image of this woman "leaving the water jug" brings out the newness of her life. We too find the stimulus to 'leave our own jug,' a symbol of everything that seems important to us but that loses its value before the 'love of God.' All of us have one or more than one of these water jugs. Let us ask ourselves, "what is my interior jug, which weighs me down, which distances me from God?" Let us leave it and listen with our heart to the voice of Jesus that offers us water, one that brings us closer to the Lord." (Pope Francis). Such experience will change our perspective and approach to life. The Samaritan woman felt the inner urge of sharing such a beautiful experience with her town mates. Our mission also starts from experiencing Jesus intimately. We have to reach out to the people around us and especially those who feel out of place or who have withdrawn themselves from the rest due to the fear, guilt etc... and bring forth the goodness and the divinity each of them possesses.

Let us find life in Jesus and share the renewed life with others not only this season of Lent but until the end. (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 <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:stmads@yahoo.com.au">stmads@yahoo.com.au</a> )



## TRUST IN GOD



A farmer's daughter's duty was to carry fresh milk to customers in various villages, one of whom was a priest. To reach his house, the milkmaid had to cross a good-sized stream. People crossed it by a sort of ferry raft, for a small fee. One day the priest, who performed worship daily with the offering to God of fresh milk, finding it arrived very late, scolded the poor woman. "What can I do?" She said, "I start out early from my house, but I have to wait a long time for the boatman to come." Then the priest said (pretending to be serious), "What! People have even walked across the ocean by repeating the name of God, and you can't cross this little river?" This milkmaid took him very seriously. From then on, she brought the priest's milk punctually every morning. He became curious about it and asked her how it was that she was never late anymore. "I cross the river repeating the name of the Lord," she replied, "just as you told me to do, without waiting for the ferry." The priest didn't believe her, and asked, "Can you show me this, how you cross the river on foot?" So they went together to the water and the milkmaid began to walk over it. Looking back, the woman saw that the priest had started to follow her and was floundering in the water. "Sir!" she cried, "You are uttering the name of God, yet all the while you are holding up your clothes from getting wet. That is not trusting in God!" – Unknown source

## CONFIRMATION

### RITE OF COMMITMENT THIS WEEKEND

**Please welcome all our children and their families this weekend as they commence their journey through the process for Confirmation.**

**Preparation Sessions** at 4pm on Sundays 19 and 26 March and 2 April followed by Mass at 5.30pm

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation: Thursday, 30 March at 5.30pm or 7pm**  
**All parishioners welcome**

**Practise Session:** Sunday, 30 April 3pm for Wednesday, 3 May & 4pm for Friday, 5 May Confirmation

**RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST** enrolment forms will be available in May 2023. Timeline found on our website [stmadeleine.org.au](http://stmadeleine.org.au)

For any queries  
[stmads.sacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmads.sacraments@gmail.com)

## 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) = \$1,186.05  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$1,775 Loose = \$1,335.35  
Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,874.23

## Congratulations to the newly baptised!

*Everly Gazzola, Lenny Daniels, Noah Tannous, Amelia, Alaina and Andrea Ajay, Amelia and Sophia Granger, Teresa Rasia, Zander Fahd, Elijah Sakr, Harrison Whittaker*



## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

The newly published International Survey of Catholic Women (ISCW) comprises more than 17,000 responses from participants across 104 countries. Led by Drs Tracy McEwan and Kathleen McPhillips from the University of Newcastle, Australia, the report details 20 key findings and further presents 14 key recommendations from the responses. The research will be presented at the Vatican to coincide with International Women's Day. Walking the Way of the HeART Retreat A Lenten Ignatian Walk with Art at the Art Gallery of NSW The walk begins at St Mary's Cathedral, then a walk through the collection from the Art Gallery of NSW South Building to stimulate reflection and prayer. We pray for the ability to understand that God's wisdom is greater than ours. May our support for Project Compassion enable us to join Mary in saying yes to God's plan of justice for the whole human family.

### Lenten groups

Tuesday at 7pm in the St Madeleine centre, led by 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*.

## PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

**For the recently deceased:** Teresa Panaia



**For the dearly departed:** Joan Carroll, Mary Cumbo, Gail Leslie Debono, Benito Sabellano, Josephine Cortis, John Nati, Mary Cumbo, Phylis & John de la Hoyde, Habib & Anthony Elias, Tony Waters, Ramza Hamwi, Hannah Toumeh, Giuseppe Mileto, Rosario & Maria Agresta, Domenica & Francesco Campanella, Giuseppina & Giuseppe Papalia, Stanly Rodrigues Marie Barrett, Engracia Corpuz, Nelly Castanares, Giuseppina & Giovanni Scarpin, Fulvio & Giulia Russo, Eduardo & Maria Piccoli, Domenica Scarpin, Aldo & Ortensia Russo, 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  
**Please pray for the sick:** Rowena Justiniani, Aura Krakowszky, Hoani Alexander Barker, Sofia Viizzo, Margaret Martin, Antonia Desanti, and Jennifer Burgess

## PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

**Music Coordinators:** Alexandra Mifsud, Selina Calleia & Joan Sattler

**Junior Ministers Coordinator:** Maree McNeil

**Children's Liturgy Coordinator:** Pauline Chaccal

**Baptism Preparation:** Angeliqe 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

### 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 during school term

### Weekday Masses

9:15am Tuesdays to Fridays

9:45am - 10:15am 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)

Weddings: By appointment

## 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

## 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

Watch: [What is Modern about Modern Slavery?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) ([vimeo.com](https://www.vimeo.com/))

Help stop slavery: [Making slavery unacceptable | The Catholic Weekly](https://www.thecatholicweekly.com/)

More info and join the discussion: Careyanne 0438791813

## St Mad's Women's Breakfast

Join us Saturday 18 March, 8.30am

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 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 Zoom ID

87375069161

on 29 March



Christians: *The Urgent Case for Jesus in our World* by Greg Sheridan

More info:

Careyanne 0438791813

## St Patrick

Feast Day:

17 March 2023



Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous.

The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ. Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold. After six years Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the good news to the Irish. In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ. He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/calendar/>

## PROJECT COMPASSION

boxes and

envelopes available in the Church



DIocese of  
PARRAMATTA

## BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL

**SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK IN OUR PARISH.**

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS COMMISSIONING CEREMONY:

**16 MARCH** New career teachers and newly appointed (first time)

Principals and Directors of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are invited to a Commissioning and welcoming ceremony to commence the academic year. The ceremony will be conducted as Vespers on Thursday 16 March at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Christie Shaylor at [events@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:events@parra.catholic.edu.au) or phone (02) 9840 5656 by Friday 9 March 2023.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES IN 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://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](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

*Congratulations to  
Blake & Charmaine  
on their wedding*



## ST MAD'S MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 8.30- 10am **25 March 2023**

Sign in at back of church

More info: 0438791813

Chris McMillan is a dedicated Resource & Environmental Manager who has been part of Jesuit Mission and currently volunteers developing an organic farming project, the size of Victoria, in Senegal. Chris lives in Toongabbie and is the Greater Sydney Landcare coordinator. Chris is passionate about people, the environment and social justice.

## ST PATRICK'S DAY

**BUSINESS BREAKFAST**

**17 MARCH**



St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, are hosting the St Patrick's Day Business Breakfast, an annual event acknowledging faith and nation building and connecting Not-For-Profit organisations with business communities. The Breakfast will be held on Friday 17 March from 7am to 9am at the Cathedral Hall, with guest speaker Dr Andrew Charlton MP, Federal Member for Parramatta. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased via <https://www.trybooking.com/eventslist/businessbreakfast>



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# ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

11 & 12 March		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Pat Waters Justin Sebire	Catherine Diekman Maria Baldi	Sandra Tabone David Hall - O'Dwyer	Lidia Ceccato Frederick Kyngdon
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire			
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sandra Bonello
FLOWERS	Lent		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow	
18 & 19 Mar		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	Heidi Bou-harb	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Nigel Saunders John Walcott	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Sacramental Team
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey Gambrell		
	MUSICIANS			Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper and Sandra Tabone		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sally Coppini
FLOWERS	Lent		ALTAR LINEN	Maria Fry	