



# St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

16th April 2023

2nd Sunday of Easter  
Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

## **“Once a man has truly experienced the mercy of God in his life he will henceforth aspire only to serve” Dietrich Bonhoeffer**



The Second Sunday of Easter is celebrated as the Divine Mercy Sunday. The word ‘mercy’ is rooted in the Latin word ‘misericordia’ which in turn derives from two words: Misereri meaning “to have pity on” or “compassion for” and cor, meaning “heart”. Mercy, therefore, carries the idea of having compassion on someone with all of one’s heart and reaching out to them in action. When we pray, ‘Have mercy on me, God!’ We are actually asking God to have compassion on us, or to hold us in His loving-kindness. And more intimately, we are asking Him to re-create or rejuvenate us.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles is Mercy in action. There are two salient features which adorned the first Christian community namely Unity and generous sharing of all they had out of concern for others. The gospel is about the appearance of the Risen Lord to the disciples. The disciples of Jesus being afraid of the Jewish authorities locked themselves in the upper room. They were totally withdrawn from the rest of the society. Jesus brought them the message of peace and consolation which transformed or recreated them for better. Jesus gave them back their identity and mission... a ‘mercy mission’. The same mission is entrusted to us in this challenging time.

*A priest in California was preparing to go to bed on a Sunday night after a busy day when the phone rang. It was a nurse at the hospital which was a couple of hours drive away. A man was dying. He was a Catholic and would “Father” come. The priest was reluctant because there was a storm raging outside. But he decided to go. Upon arrival he entered the room of the dying man. He introduced himself and was gruffly told to “go to hell.” The conditions of the storm had worsened, so the priest decided he would hang*

*around for a while. An hour later he approached the man again. “I am a Catholic priest. You are dying. Are you sure I can’t help you in any way?” Again, the man rebuked him, demanding that he be left alone. For some reason the priest decided he would try once more. He waited another hour. Then he entered the room for the last time. To his surprise the man responded, “Well, I may as well tell you.” Then he began to relate the story of his life. Forty years back he worked on a railway signals box. Everything was done manually in those days. It was Christmas time, and he had been drinking. When the train was approaching, he pulled the wrong lever. The train went down the wrong track and collided into a car as it was crossing the lines. A woman and her two children were killed instantly. He told the priest that from that day onwards he had lived with the guilt of that accident. He kept to himself, never married, and gave up on life. He lived in quiet despair. The priest, who had been listening very intently, asked him a few more questions about the date and time of the accident. Then he said to the dying man, “I want you to listen closely to me. You did not know this. But there was another little boy in that car. He lived. And when he grew up, he became a priest. And he is speaking with you right now! And I want you to know, I forgive you.”*



That man, who had spent his whole life in such an awful prison of self-hate, guilt and self-recrimination, was able to hear from the priest the words of forgiveness that set him free. He was finally able to forgive himself as he heard the words of absolution from the priest, but also the words of forgiveness from the little boy who had lost his mother and siblings in an accident 40 years back. He died in peace...

Mercy does miracles; God’s mercy always recreates us; rejuvenates us; divine mercy offers us hope, healing and power, inner strength to confidently move on in our lives. Throughout the gospels, we discover that mercy again and again:

- The blind man Bartimaeus received his sight at his appeal of mercy from Jesus. Jesus made him somebody in the society...
- The Canaanite woman cried out to Jesus on behalf of her daughter, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.” And her daughter was freed (Mt 15:22).
- The ten lepers called to Jesus, “Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us.” And they were cleansed (Lk 17:13).
- In the parable of the two men who went up to the Temple to pray, “the tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner” (Lk 18:10-14). The man went home justified and as a new man.

Those of us who are dogged by feelings of fear, hopelessness, anxiety, stress, depression, anger, hatred or stubbornness and guilt about past sins need to experience the undeserved mercy and forgiveness of God; we must first believe that our sins are forgiven; we must truly and sincerely make all the efforts to lead a new life renewed in the Spirit of God. It is in the mercy of Jesus; we find ourselves again. It is in His mercy, we find meaning or purpose for our life. (Sources 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 MADS

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> )



Christine Kingery will never forget her grandmother's stories. She shared some of them on the NPR series **This I Believe**.

Christine's Russian-born grandmother was captured by the Nazis and taken to a work camp in Germany when she was 17. They shaved off her waist-length hair and tortured her. She never saw her parents or siblings again. The resourceful young woman escaped the camp and worked for many months as a nurse in underground movements in Germany and Belgium until she was captured a second time by the Nazis and taken to a concentration camp. There she met Christine's grandfather, and the two escaped. Eventually, they and their newborn-daughter — Christine's mother — came to America.

Christine remembers hearing these stories when she was eight years old. She said to her grandmother, "I hate the Germans for what they did to you! Don't you just get so mad at them?"

Christine never forgot her grandmother's response. She said in her broken English, "The Germans are my friends. When I escaped and had nowhere to go, the Germans gave me food, shelter, and clothes. They were my friends even in the camps. The Germans are the kindest people I know."

Her answer shocked Christine. It was her first introduction to the meaning of compassion.

A few years later, when Christine was in high school, she had the chance to go to Japan. She visited Nagasaki. The experience was overwhelming. In every photograph, in every Japanese victim's face in the museum's exhibits, she saw her grandmother's reflection. Christine had to go outside to Peace Park on the bomb-site grounds. Beautiful colorful origami cranes — thousands of them — were draped over statues and trees. Christine sat on a bench and cried and cried. An old Japanese woman saw the teenager on the bench. She was about her grandmother's age. She sat next to Christine and put her wrinkled hands in Christine's. In broken English, the old woman said, "Peace starts right here. Peace starts with you and me. It starts today." (A connections sampler)



### INVITATION TO REGISTER FOR CPR TRAINING

You are invited to register for this accredited CPR Course being offered by Surf Life Saving NSW as part of a project being offered by The University of Sydney, Westmead Applied Research Centre.

The course runs for 2.5 hours and will be presented at two locations across the Diocese.

- St Thomas Aquinas Springwood on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May beginning at 10am, or
- Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm.

Please contact

**Suzanne - Parish Safeguarding Champion  
m. 0410 936 108**

For information on how to register for the venue of your choice



### Please ensure your details are kept up to date **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 : Kenhurst 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.**

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$2,794.25  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$927 Loose = \$3,948.30

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

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:



**For the dearly departed:** Steve Nash, Beryl Forster, Paul Spina, Paul Cascun, Martin Mileto, Yvonne Muter, Barbara Sweeney, Michele Vaccarella, Norman & Chahida Hajje, Shedly & Chahide Hajje, George Hajje, Betty & Mary Merhi, Hanna & Raymond Chiha, Abraham family, Abbey Mousa, Joe Fuda, Maria Rose Napoli, Salvatore Napoli, Joseph & Lyn Napoli, Sam & Barbara Napoli, Anne & Chris Geniale, Yolanda & Sam Papallo, George Papallo, Immacolata Agostino, Ariella Napoli, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Joe Farrugia, Ky Frendo, Geoff Burcham

**Please pray for the sick:** Catherine Saunders, Rowena Justiniani, 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 Champion:** 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

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 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 0413272400 for any special requests.



## CONFIRMATION

Please continue to pray for our children and their families as they prepare for Confirmation

Practice Session: Sunday, 30 April

3pm for Wednesday, 3 May &

4pm for Friday, 5 May Confirmation

Confirmation will take place at 7pm on  
Wednesday, 3 May and  
Friday, 5 May

## 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)



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

## MET FAITHLIFE SCRIPTURE COURSE: STARTING 2 MAY

Want to learn more about different ways to pray? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on "Prayer" with Br Barry Donaghue, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 2 + 9 + 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfarra.org.au/faithlife/>

## St Gianna

### Beretta Molla

Feast Day: 19 April

In less than 40 years,  
Gianna Beretta Molla

became a pediatric physician, a wife, a mother and a saint! She was born in Magenta near Milano, the tenth of Alberto and Maria Beretta's 13 children. An active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a leader in the Catholic Action movement, Gianna also enjoyed skiing and mountain climbing. She earned degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia, eventually specializing in pediatrics. In 1952, Gianna opened a clinic in the small town of Mesero, where she met engineer Pietro Molla. Shortly before their 1955 marriage, Gianna wrote to Pietro: "Love is the most beautiful sentiment that the Lord has put into the soul of men and women." In the next four years the Mollas had three children: Pierluigi, Mariolina, and Laura. Two pregnancies following ended in miscarriage. Early in her final pregnancy, doctors discovered that Gianna had both a child and a tumor in her uterus. She allowed the surgeons to remove the tumor but not to perform the complete hysterectomy that they recommended, which would have killed the child. Seven months later in April 1962, Gianna Emanuela Molla was born at the hospital in Monza, but post-operative complications resulted in an infection for her mother. The following week Gianna Molla died at home, and was buried in the cemetery of Mesero. Gianna Emanuela went on to become a physician herself. Gianna Beretta Molla was beatified in 1994 and canonized 10 years later. Her liturgical feast is celebrated on April 28 <https://www.franciscanmedia.org>



## SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

Voice Crying in the Wilderness – Easter to Pentecost Discussion Series created by Brisbane Catholic Justice and Peace Commission [www.cjbcbrisbane.com](http://www.cjbcbrisbane.com) includes scripture, prayer, and discussion questions to engage with the significance of the Uluru Statement and our response to it. Joni McCourt Reconciliation Action Plan Project Manager. Laudato Si' week is coming up in May and an Ignatian on-line retreat is being offered [www.jisa.org.au/im23/](http://www.jisa.org.au/im23/) A convocation of people with spiritual exercises, forest contemplations and conversations, using the life of a tree as a metaphor for an organic spirituality. Please pray for Aunty Margaret from Baabayn who is unwell in Westmead hospital.

## PARISH VOLUNTEERS:

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

Copies also available in the Church. Please also complete form if you can help as a reader, welcomer, musician, or with providing flowers.



## 2023 MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES CONFERENCE 3-5 MAY 2023

Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) invite you to save the date for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference. Three days of professional and personal development focused on mission.

Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney. For more information, visit [www.2023.mohmv.com.au](http://www.2023.mohmv.com.au).

## PARISH PLAYGROUP

Start Date: Thursday, 27 April  
and each Thursday during school term

At: 9.30am  
in the St Madeleine Centre

Do you have any good quality toys that you would like to donate?

Any questions—or to donate—please contact  
Sandra in the office on  
9654 2260





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# ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

15 & 16 April		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	Dianne Millington	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Joanna O'Neill Robert Gerometta	Catherine Diekman Margaret M	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Jacqui Nisbet Tereza Barisic
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima			
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	School Holidays
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino	

22 & 23 April		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	Tony Hooper Nigel Saunders	Sandra Bonello Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS		Bailey Gambrell		
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Tony Hooper & Sonali Arnold		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	School Holidays
FLOWERS	Dianne Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Rosa Carlino	