



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

12th November 2023

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 6:12-16
1 Thess 4:13-18
Mt 25:1-13

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” – Benjamin Franklin

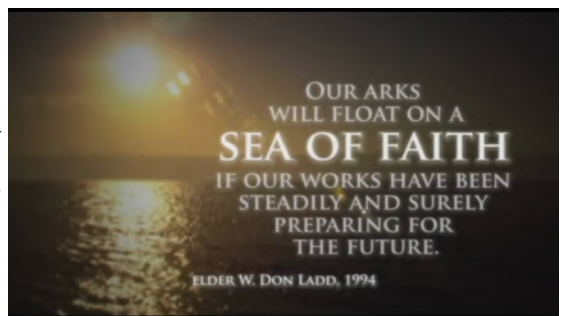


We are approaching the end of the Liturgical Year and the readings - specifically through the Gospel - invite us to reflect upon the end of our lives. Amid the uncertainties of the world, a follower of Christ cannot afford to be casual and unprepared for the moment. In the Jewish culture of which the listeners and Jesus were a part, the custom was that the bride would wait with her bridesmaids, normally at the city gate, for the bridegroom to come and go to her house for the wedding feast. We must remember the conditions of travel then, with no mobile phones, that there would have been no way of knowing when the bridegroom would arrive. It would have been a great shame for the family of the bride not to be ready when the bridegroom arrived no matter how late it was.

Reflecting on the parable, one may think that it is unfair that the five foolish maids were excluded from the wedding simply because they forgot to bring sufficient Oil for their lamps. Another thing: why didn't the wise ones share some of their oil with them? Were they not guilty of rank selfishness? The parable is deeper than it seems. There is far more involved than a little lamp oil. It should be quite clear that we are not talking about a momentary lapse of memory – forgetting to bring along some extra oil. What we are dealing with are two contrasting attitudes towards the wedding feast.

For the sensible women it was obviously the chance of a lifetime. It was something they really appreciated and for which they had prepared diligently. Here was a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to meet the bridegroom and to get into the wedding feast. No way were they going to miss it. For the foolish ones I imagine it was a bit of fun. They tagged along merely out of duty or habit. Deep down, they really did not care. Even so, they felt let-down when they did not get in. But it was their whole attitude that was wrong, not just one little lapse of concentration or memory. In other words, they were not judged on one moment of their lives. The first five were ready, careful, and wise – all doers of the word. The second five were unprepared, careless, and foolish – mere hearers of the word. Hence, we need to be the doers of the Word like the sensible women and not merely the hearers of the Word like the foolish women in the parable. The oil here stands for our Faith (nourishing of our faith), our love and service for our fellow men and our life in the company of Jesus every day.

A story is told of an old and holy monk who was sweeping up the fallen leaves in the monastery grounds. A visitor saw him and asked, "What would you do, brother, if you knew that you were to die in ten minutes?" The old monk said, "I'd carry on sweeping." Because the monk has always been vigilant, he is ready to meet His Judge anytime.



In an emergency there are some things we can borrow from others at short notice. But we can also say in the context of today's parable that the 'oil' of loving service is not transferable to others. Like if your mobile phone battery runs low, you cannot borrow the power from others... the battery power of your mobile phone is not transferable. In other words, our preparedness is something that is ultimately our responsibility.

The door was shut for the foolish women - not due to any partiality on the part of the bridegroom - but because of the tardiness/delay of some in responding to the invitation. The locked door means that access to Jesus is not automatic or to be altogether taken for granted. We need to ask for it and we need to make an effort to keep the oil of faith, hope and love burning bright. And that is precisely the warning in today's parable - **“Therefore, stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.”** (Sources duly acknowledged)

God's blessings

Fr. Vince



PARISH NEWS



PRAYER AT ST MADS

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)



CAN YOU PLAY THE PIANO/KEYBOARD? DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The St Madeleine's Music Ministry is searching for parishioners who can help our singers and congregation provide music for our weekend masses.

Support and assistance provided! Can you help us, please?

Contact Selina Calleia on 0416 265 233 or s.calleia@hotmail.com

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 : 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.

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES ALL WELCOME! SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

A practice to prepare for the music for our Christmas masses will be held on:

**TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023,
at 7PM**

RSVP: Selina Calleia 0416 265 233.

CHRISTMAS - NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS TREE

Please contact the office if you are able to help with the Nativity and Christmas Tree set up in the Church

Contact Sally: 0407 942 986

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,505.70
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$958.05 Loose = \$1,161.40

Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,864.38

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

The first Sunday of November, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Prison Sunday, bringing attention to the plight of prisoners and highlighting the important work that prison chaplains undertake. Act for Peace is a great way to actively strive for peace in our world. Visit www.actforpeace.org.au Creating a world where everyone belongs. Jesuit Mission has launched a Christmas appeal called Gifts for Change eCards (jesuitmission.org.au) Something you could consider to make Advent a peaceful season and for our Hamper Mass December 10th. St Madeleines Primary School have a Christmas drive for House of Welcome November 24th. Drop your goods into the school office .

*Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ, we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Selina Calleia, Joan Sattler & Alexandra Mifsud
Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil
Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Pauline Chacal
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: Brendan Ford

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

St Elizabeth of Hungary

Feast Day: 17 November

The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and asceticism when a life of leisure and luxury could easily have been hers. The choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe. At the age of 14, Elizabeth was married to Louis of Thuringia, whom she deeply loved. She bore three children. Under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick. Seeking to become one with the poor, she wore simple clothing. Daily she would take bread to hundreds of the poorest in the land who came to her gate. After six years of marriage, her husband died in the Crusades, and Elizabeth was grief-stricken. Her husband's family looked upon her as squandering the royal purse, and mistreated her, finally throwing her out of the palace. The return of her husband's allies from the Crusades resulted in her being reinstated, since her son was legal heir to the throne. In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order, spending the remaining few years of her life caring for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi. Elizabeth's health declined, and she died before her 24th birthday in 1231.

Reflection: Elizabeth understood well the lesson Jesus taught when he washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. The Christian must be one who serves the humblest needs of others, even if one serves from an exalted position. Of royal blood, Elizabeth could have lorded it over her subjects. Yet she served them with such a loving heart that her brief life won for her a special place in the hearts of many. Elizabeth is also an example to us in her following the guidance of a spiritual director. Growth in the spiritual life is a difficult process. We can play games very easily if we don't have someone to challenge us.

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

Safeguarding

Safeguarding training is mandatory for all volunteers in a Church.

For further information please contact our Safeguarding Champion Brendan or the parish office.

Brendan - Parish Safeguarding Champion
m. 0448 683 146



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

60th Year of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Commemorative Mass:

4 December Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60th Anniversary of Sacrosanctum Concilium (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes to 0460 037 795 or Hannah Portelli hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Food Drives Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes and schools are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

Mass and prayers for deceased clergy: 17 November The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ. We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests and deacons who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

Local World Youth Day and Leaders Commissioning Mass: 26 November Catholic Youth Parramatta invites all youth leaders, new school leaders and young people to the annual Local World Youth Day & Leaders Commissioning Mass, which will be held on Sunday 26 November (Feast of Christ the King) at 3.30pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. The Youth Mass will give thanks for the Youth ministry year so far and bless all leaders for their 2024 ministry year. Family, friends and community members are all invited to join in this celebration. For catering purposes, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org.



ST MADELEINE'S
PLAYGROUP
St Madeleine's Centre
28 Annangrove Road, KENTHURST

- Every Thursday during school term, from 9.30am
- Play and activities for children 0-6 years old.

- Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome!
- Bring a healthy morning tea and a hat for play.
- For more information, please contact Sarah - 0405 514 624 or Amy - aseychell3@parra.catholic.edu.au



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmadeleines>

PIETY SHOP

2024 Columban Calendars
now available \$10



The Sign Advent Booklet
now available \$5



Christmas Cards (pack of 10) \$8.00

Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400 for any special requests.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024 Getting married in 2024? 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 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

For any queries please contact Sandra on 0410 587 735 or

stmads.sacraments@gmail.com

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



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11 & 12 November

	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	Dianne Millington	Piety Rocha	Phyllis Hannah	
READERS	Justin Sebire Colleen Dunlop	Eileen Sherlock Maria Fry	Sue Martin Sally Coppini	Lilet Alcantara Lidia Ceccato
JNR MINISTERS	Emerson, Sophie & Anneliese		Grace, Samuel & Aaliyah	
MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler		
COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sally Coppini
FLOWERS	Dianne Bennett		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman

18 & 19 November

	5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
WELCOMERS		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Zakia Touma Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Joe Touma	
READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Tony Hooper Margaret Mieczkowski	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Jacqui Nisbet Tereza Barisic
JNR MINISTERS	Anneliese	Bailey Gambrell		
MUSICIANS				
COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sandra Bonello
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow