



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

19th November 2023

**33rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thess 5:1-6
Mt 25:14-30

Our Gospel this weekend is about the parable of the five talents. The parable, in a symbolic way, is trying to get us to think about the mercy of God. To understand this better, we need to do some unpacking. Let's have a deeper look into this.

During the time of the New Testament, a talent was a measure of money. In the Roman world, it was the largest unit of currency. It was equal to the payment an average worker would receive for 6000 days of work, or about the total sum a worker would make in 16 years. That's quite a significant amount of money. If you owned a single talent, you would be considered an incredibly wealthy person.

The talent, as a unit of measurement, is also found in the Old Testament. In those days, a single talent was the equivalent of 80lbs of gold. We read in the book of Exodus that the Israelites used 29 talents to build the tabernacle, or about one tonne of gold. That is an incredible amount of wealth that went into the building of the tabernacle! A talent in the Old Testament also represents something that is weighty, for gold is the heaviest metal.

The tabernacle was known as the Seat of God, and it was from this throne that God's mercy reigned. The reason why the Israelites put so much wealth into the building of the tabernacle was because of how important it was to them. The use of 29 talents to build the tabernacle symbolised a couple of things. It's to say that God's mercy is incredibly valuable, a measure of real wealth, and it's also to say that God's mercy is something that is quite weighty, with gold representing great weight.

With this in mind, we can now start to draw some connections to our parable today. The talents that are given to the three servants represent a share in the wealth of God's mercy. The talents, being worth so much, point to the idea that God's mercy is of great abundance. It also points to the idea that God's mercy is something that has great weight to it. Even the servant who has only received one talent has received an abundance of this mercy.

The question then is, what should the servants do with these talents, these symbols of the measure of God's mercy? The parable is trying to get us to see that the talents are meant to be shared. God's mercy is not meant to be kept just for our own possession and benefit. It's meant to be a gift for others. When we allow ourselves to be the face of God's mercy to others, our hearts grow closer to God, and this is where true riches lie.

But what happens if we don't share the gift of God's mercy with others? The parable explains this too, describing what happened with the servant who decided to do nothing with the gift that was given. This servant fell away from a state of grace, despite the overabundance of mercy that God gave. The moral of the story then is that the mercy of God is meant to be shared. Take your talents and spend them as liberally as you can! If you do this, you will find your heart growing closer to God.

May God bless you all, and I wish you a graced week ahead.

Fr Adam

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)



Please join us for our ADVENT program - *The Sign* - commencing Tuesday, 28 November at 7pm (for 4 weeks)

In the St Mad's Centre to make Christmas more prayerful and meaningful for everyone

Sign up sheet at the entrance to the Church

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 0416 265 233

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,382.20
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$984.00 Loose = \$1,075.00

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

RETIRED PARISHIONERS' HEALING MASS FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

Tuesday, 5 December 2023
RSVP by Friday, 1 December

Jenny Puleo 0414 650 011
Lesley Gangemi - 0408 758 548

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S Hamper mass for St Mads is December 10th. We are again supporting Baabayn Aboriginal corporation and Holy Family Emerton parish who have around 700 families registered requiring a hamper, our assistance helps. Notes on what to put in a hamper are available. The Primary school hampers for House of Welcome are being delivered Wednesday November 29th please drop yours into the school Social Justice coordinator Jenny Coope will welcome our contributions. The new encyclical from Pope Francis *Laudate deum* will be unpacked for Sydney Diocese Peace & Justice office in a webinar with Sue Martin and Alice Carwardine from Earthcare December 6th. Pope Francis said, "authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole." (Laudate Deum 61).

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED PRAYER FOR ETERNAL LIFE

O Lord, your sorrowing Mother stood by your cross; help us in our sorrows to share your sufferings.

Like the seed buried in the ground, you have produced the harvest of eternal life for us; make us always dead to sin and alive to God.

Shepherd of all, in death you remained hidden from the world; teach us to love our hidden spiritual life with you and the Father.

In your role as the new Adam, you went down among the dead to release all the just there since the beginning; grant that all who are dead in sin may hear your voice and rise to new life.

Son of the living God, you have allowed us through baptism to be buried with you; grant that we may also rise with you in baptism and walk in newness of life. 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

SAFEGUARDING: Safeguarding training is mandatory for all volunteers in a Church.

If you would like to complete this training online 'Sign up' by clicking on this link:
<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

Brendan - Parish Safeguarding Champion
m. 0448 683 146



BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR

CATHOLIC CARE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES will be held next weekend **25-26 November 2023**. Will you support our chaplains to listen with the ear of the heart? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you



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.

A big thanks to Maureen, Deb and Sally for organising our Volunteers' Dinner last Friday



St Andrew Dung-Lac & companions

Feast Day:
24 November



Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II. Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan. Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries. In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries, and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day>

4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF OUR PARISH CHURCH:

FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER - PLEASE JOIN US FOR 9.15AM MASS

The 24th November marks the 4th anniversary of our stunning parish church, dedicated as it was on that date in 2019 by Bishop Vincent Nguyễn Văn Long O.F.M. Our first Mass in the church was held on the Feast of Christ The King in 2019, which was the 33rd anniversary of our parish. It was perhaps apt that as The Feast of Christ the King reaffirms the centrality of Christ in our lives, so the completion of the church and its dedication was an auspicious date upon which the Bishop dedicated the church providing our parish a magnificent Holy place to celebrate, worship and so continue to reaffirm our own lives central with Christ. The completion of the church represented fulfillment of the dreams of parishioners who had worked towards building a church for 33 years and indeed over the last four years since dedication, we have seen our parish grow as the number of worshippers steadily increases, with the 4 weekend masses well attended and regular morning masses held too on Tuesdays to Fridays. We see a very large number of baptisms and our church is a magnet for wedding services too, with a vast increase in numbers from past years.

Our church has grown as a hub for the parish community, by all measures, thanks to the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St Madeleine's parish was established in 1986, with the purchase of 25 acres and a plan to build St Madeleine's primary school first and then to construct our church; masses were held in the hall built by the parish next to the school. This was before the Catholic Education Office (CEO) was created and in those days each parish in the Diocese was responsible for the building of its primary school. It became apparent though that we, and surrounding parishes, needed a high school too and so the building of the church was put back to allow Marian College to be built on the land, to serve St Madeleine's and surrounding parishes.

As years passed, the parish realised more land was now needed to enable the construction of the church and so in 2008 the parish bought an adjoining 5 acre block of land and immediately began paying down the loan taken out for the acquisition, with donations, regular contributions and fund raising. During these subsequent years, mass continued to be celebrated in the hall, while we awaited the opportunity to finally build our church. Then, so it was, that on that land purchased in 2008, the church was ultimately built!

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



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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 Gambrill		
	MUSICIANS				
	COUNTERS	Sandra Tabone & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sandra Bonello
	FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Catherine Diekman

25 & 26 November		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phyllis Hannah	
	READERS	Colleen Dunlop Justin Sebire	Catherine Diekman Maria Baldi	Sandra Tabone Sally Coppini	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire		Lily-Anne & Luciana	Sofia, Sophie, Charlize & Sophia
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Tony Hooper		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
	FLOWERS	WEDDING		ALTAR LINEN	Maria Fry